Chapter 122 – Ichijouji Reina's Daily Life – Six

"AI is truly amazing these days, isn't it." A middle-aged man said while looking at a hologram that displayed a game character.

"Indeed, they're almost indistinguishable from humans." Another middle-aged man said while nodding, "What do you think of it, Reina?" So bothersome. I didn't care about this in the slightest, but I suppose I should reply since he talked to me.

"Their reactions are certainly very human-like, both when talking and dying." I replied. The man smiled at this reply, so it must have been the 'correct' answer. Giving my opinion on this topic was the right choice.

After that, they went back to their own talk regarding the developments of AIs, which I promptly decided to ignore. It was a real bother that I had to attend those new year celebrations just because I was a noble, but I suppose it couldn't be helped.

As I thought of that though, a familiar face appeared, "Hey, Reina, you free?" Yahiko approached me while saying that.

"Yes, sure." I replied. I didn't feel like talking to him much, but it was an excuse for leaving those middle-aged men.

"It's a pleasure to see you, Mr. Kujo." One of the men talked to Yahiko just before we started leaving… Annoying.

"Such a rare occasion, to see the children of the dukes getting closer like that…" The other man said.

“Well, they’re from the same school, aren’t they?” The first of them two replied… They must be thinking I have some form of romantic relationship with Yahiko… How bothersome, what’s the ‘correct’ answer in this situation?

“We don’t have this kind of relationship, thank you very much.” Yahiko told them…

“Oh, I see?” One of the men said. So denying it is the ‘correct’ choice? Let’s follow along.

“It’s disgusting to see people assuming love just because a man and a woman know each other.” I told them… The three went silent when I said it, was it an ‘incorrect’ choice? I thought making it clearer would be for the best though… Let’s try rephrasing it, “Even the royal family can marry who they want these days, why should nobility need to care about arranged marriages?”

“I think she’s a bit tired, so we’ll take our leave first.” Yahiko said while grabbing my hand and moving away from the two middle-aged men.

“O-of course.” I could hear one of them say as we moved out… Was my complementation to the conversation ‘incorrect’ too? How troublesome.

Once we reached a place we could talk at with ease, Yahiko said, “Sorry about that, but… aren’t you way too bad at mimicking others’ behaviors?”

“Not exactly, but…” I started replying, but he cut me off.

“You don’t really know what are the ‘correct’ answers to give in those situations perhaps?” He asked.

“I just didn’t have enough samples to work with for that scenario.” I replied. Love talk is not something I’m used to seeing after all… Yahiko seemed to be better at this kind of thing than me though, I’m a bit envious of that.

“Well, you don’t really need to say anything if you don’t know what to say. Just smiling would probably be enough.” He said.

“Is that so…? I’ll keep it in mind.” I replied, “In any case, it seems like I have wasted enough time here, so I’ll be going home.” I told him as I noticed that Mr. Yamamoto had just arrived.

“Alright, then. Let’s play more later.” He said as I left.

“Sure, let’s play again.” I replied, and then got in the car.

******

I crushed the cake and threw it away… The nerve of that man, how can he seriously leave a letter saying ‘Happy New Year, there is a gift in your room’ while celebrating this with his ‘family’ that involves the second wife and her children.

I torn the dress apart and threw it away too. As if I need a gift from that mother-in-law. I didn’t grow out of the size of the clothes my mother gave me, so why would I need someone else’s!? I especially don’t need this woman’s clothes!

I broke the gorgeous hair clip and threw it away as well. Why does this sister-in-law think I need such an unpleasant thing in the hair that my mother gave me? I don’t need a sister-in-law!

I destroyed the bouquet, throwing it out too. This brother-in-law’s gift is unnecessary… And I definitely don’t want this person giving me mom’s favorite flowers, that’s just annoying… He absolutely cannot call me sister-in-law!

And I definitely don’t need a gift from that man. Let’s burn away this photo without even looking at it, why is he doing such nauseating things-!?

… I can’t throw this away. A beautiful old photo of mom… I hate this man. I hate everything he does, but I can’t hate this gift… This is suffocating.

“Mom…” I murmured to myself while hugging her photo and burying my face on the pillow. I really can’t forgive that man, but this was a nice gift, let’s take it for what it is… I can’t help feeling happy when seeing mom’s face from this photo, it is an important image that will be carefully saved in my memories…

I hate this. Let’s store this treasure in my treasure box, then destroy the packaging that the photo came in… Now I finished throwing away all those useless gifts.

Chapter 123 – Ichijouji Reina's Daily Life – Seven

Translator's Note: I'm putting everyone's names here at the start to avoid confusion.

Yuu – Oda Yuuki

Maria – Hagiwara Mai

Hannes – Sugo Masaki

Ryne – Kokonoe Kurumi

Cherry – Shinonome Sakura

Eleanor – Kanno Nozomi

Kellin – Odawara Kenji

Myra – Kamiya Nozomi

"Miss Ichijouji, do you have a moment?" A classmate of mine suddenly said once classes were over.

"What is it?" I asked her back. I can't really remember her name, and I don't know why she talked to me either, but it wouldn't be 'normal' to ignore her, so I replied.

"You're playing a game called KSO, right?" She asked me.

“Yes, I am.” I told her. I don’t get why she asked me instead of Yuuki or Mai though, they’re definitely better than me at game talk.

“What is it like? What do you do when you play it!?” She seemed to be excited for some reason.

“I just… Do whatever I want?” I told her. I don’t really have a specific routine or anything, and I mostly play solo, so there isn’t much more to say.

“B-b-but what about that thing about you being a genocider?” She eagerly asked.

I didn’t know how to reply, and Yahiko did say I could just smile at those times, so let’s try it. I smiled at her without really saying anything.

“I-I-I see! T-thank you for your time! I’ll see you tomorrow!” She said before leaving.

“See you tomorrow.” I replied… Smiling really did work, what a nice trick. I should thank him for this one later.

“Reina! Let’s go home together!” Mai suddenly called out to me as soon as the other girl left.

“Alright.” I replied, which made her give me a big smile as she started walking with me… Also, Yuuki came together while walking a bit behind us, he was also fidgeting a bit… I suppose the three of us will go home together? I’m not used to this kind of ‘ordinary’ thing, but it feels nice.

“By the way, Masaki and his friends said they wanna come with us too.” Mai told me as we walked to the shoe lockers.

“Yeah, they said they’ll wait at the school’s gates.” Yuuki complemented.

So we’re going home with a big group? That’s a first to me… Well, I suppose it’s fine, even a bit unexpected and confusing.

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(Yuu's PoV)

There was an awkward heavy mood in the air right now… It was just supposed to be me and Mai going home with Reina, but Sugo and his friends ended up overhearing our plans and took advantage of it, and we're now in this mess.

"Reina, do you like sweets? Let's buy some crepes!" Mai told her.

"I don't hate them." Reina replied.

"So even the Genocider likes sweets…" Kanno commented. The girls are in a good mood, yet we over here are in such a drought… Why did I have to ask if Sugo still liked Reina? Such a bad move on my end, this is why otaku and normies shouldn't mix! This topic choice was terrible!

"I'll take the strawberry chocolate one!" Kamiya said as we reached the crepe stall.

"I'll go with custard pudding." Shinonome said.

"And I… Will go for a crepe of caramel with whipped cream, I suppose." Kanno said.

"I'll have the same! What about you Reina, which one do you want?" Mai asked her. At least the girls are having fun, I guess… Or rather, everyone except me and Sugo are having fun, since his two male friends sneaked away from us two and were having fun on their own…

"I don't know? I've never eaten crepes before." Reina replied.

"Then get the same as me! I recommend it! Give one to her too, clerk!" Mai dragged Reina into eating her favorite flavor… I suppose that's fine.

Though it is a bit pitiful that Reina has never gone out to buy sweets on her own like this… Well, not much we can do about her past, I suppose. Let's just try to enjoy our time together now.

With those thoughts in my head, me and the other guys in the group ordered our crepes.

"… Hey." Sugo suddenly called me out.

"W-what!?" I replied with a really weird voice due to how surprising it was for him to talk to me out of nowhere… He started laughing because of it… Tsk.

After a small while he stopped though, and then asked me, "Is she always like this?" Must be talking about Reina…

"Well, pretty much. She is pretty sheltered it seems… She feels lost by the smallest of things, like how to play with a stray cat, or how to reply to the greeting of an elementary student even." I told him.

"Really now…" Sugo seemed to be thinking about something as I thought of the times where me and Mai were together with Reina and witnessed her being troubled by those trivial things…

"Mmmmm…" Reina was looking at the crepe without really biting it.

"Reina, like this!" Mai called her out, and then took a bite.

"Oh!" Reina replied and took a bite in the same way Mai did just now.

"I'm surprised you don't even know how to eat a crepe." Shinonome commented.

"Must be because she's a lady, I guess?" Kamiya replied.

This looked just like a scene out of an anime… Wait, no, forget those thoughts! There are non-otaku here, you shouldn't bring those things up.

"… Sweet." Reina said while smiling.

"It's delicious, isn't it!?" Mai commented.

"How can the Genocider be like this? You're so cute!" Shinonome said.

Reina was mostly expressionless, so I suppose her rare smiles were that much more impressive… I wonder if this was because of her upbringing, making her unable to smile much, or even take big bites from food… Mai once said that she wanted to pat Reina's said while saying stuff like 'it's alright, you can eat more if you want.'

… And just as the mood was getting better, my phone had to ruin it, damn it! I can't believe I forgot to change my usual anime ringtone! There's no way they didn't hear it when this mail arrived… I should have just chosen a normal J-pop for today, why did I have to forget to change it…?

I sighed before looking at the phone, "Huh? That's surprising… It's from KSO management." I told everyone after I read the mail.

"What does it say?" Sugo asked me.

"We'll be having another event." I replied.

"Oh…" Sugo instantly turned his gaze towards Reina, who just tilted her head in response, "Ichijouji, you better prepare yourself for this next event, alright!?" He said.

"… Oh, alright." Was her reply… This was supposed to be some sort of anime climax moment or something, right? I mean, I think it's what Sugo was going for, but… Both of them had some cream around their mouthes, so they just looked silly right now.

"Ah, and by the way…" They started saying in unison… Honestly, it was hard to not laugh right now, but everyone seemed to be at a mutual understanding that we shouldn't break the mood by laughing, "There's some cream on your face." they said together again… At this point, we all started laughing.

Chapter 124 – Ichijouji Komari's Troubles

(Komari's PoV (Reina's sister-in-law))

I didn't have much to do after finishing my homework, so I ended up starting to think about the usual stuff… This was depressing.

"Is that still troubling you?" My twin brother, Seigi, asked me as he heard me sigh.

"I mean… Yeah? Because our sister-in-law is still avoiding us…" I replied.

"I get what you're saying, but it can't be helped when we were born out of an affair." He told me plainly.

"I understand, but… But I want to get along with our older sister!" I mean, I get she might hold a grudge over us since her mother was cheated upon, but that's not our fault! We can get along just fine, can't we!? "Don't you want to get along with her too!?" I asked him.

"I mean, I do, but… Not much can be done if she doesn't want it." He told me honestly.

"… I hate when you just throw the truth at my face like that, you know that?" I replied while sighing again.

"That's a bad habit of yours." He said while patting my head.

I mean, he is right, but I still want to grow closer to her… I want to be proper sisters, not just this in-name thing.

Seigi seemed to understand my plight, so he tried coming up with some ideas, “Why don’t you try cooking her favorite food?” He suggested.

“… Wouldn’t that just be whatever her mom cooked?” I replied.

“Ah… Maybe she left some recipes…?” I’m not sure I can replicate her meals without having the deceased help me… And I’m also unsure if Reina liked the food for the taste, or because it was made by her mom… And wouldn’t she actually get angry if a child that was born out of an affair tried to replicate the food that her mom cooked!?

Yeah, this is definitely no good… Seigi seemed to have realized that too, because he suggested a new thing, “Maybe girl talk could work? Like talking about fashion or something?”

“I don’t think she is interested in this kind of thing…” I instantly replied. She looks great at pretty much anything, and she doesn’t seem to ever wear makeup or to pay much attention to her clothes, so… There’s no way this would work either. What am I even supposed to do!?

At that moment, Mr. Yamamoto entered the living room and said, “So that’s where you two were… Lord Seigi, Lady Komari, I assume the two of you have already finished your homework?”

“Of course, I did!” Seigi said.

“I did too… Oh, right! Mr. Yamamoto, you came at the right time!” He has been working for the Ichijoujis since forever after all, so he must have some ideas! “I want to get along with our sister-in-law, Reina.”

“Oh, with miss Reina…” He seemed to think for a bit before replying, “Well, there is a game that she has been playing quite a bit recently, and she seems to enjoy it a lot.”

“A game?” Seigi asked.

“That’s kinda surprising…” I commented. I mean, I always thought of her as the kind of person that reads books by the window while being bathed by

the moonlight, so this is an unexpected hobby for her.

“The game is ‘Karma Story Online’, or KSO for short, she seems to be playing it with her classmates during most of her free time.” Mr. Yamamoto told us.

“She has friends!?” Seigi exclaimed.

“Seigi, that’s rude.” I mean, she is kinda expressionless most of the time, and always avoids us no matter what I do, but, but… But that doesn’t mean she can’t have friends!

“I don’t know what she does as she plays with her colleagues, but why don’t you try playing the same game?” Mr. Yamamoto said.

“It might be a good idea…” I can get a better gist of what she likes by playing it, and I might even be able to talk about the game with her too, so it might be a good way to get along with her, “Alright! Seigi, let’s order copies of the game right now!”

“Why are you working on the premise I’ll play too…?” He asked me.

“You won’t play it?” I asked him back.

“… I’ll play it.” He answered… He should be more straightforward at times. I know he wants to get along with her too after all.

But well, the game won’t arrive right away, so I guess we should try looking at its homepage for now at the very least. Hopefully it arrives tomorrow.

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“So, come play KSO with me!” I told my friend, Kako, as we left school.

“You’re really going to play KSO, Komari…?” She asked me. I really tried my best at convincing her, but she didn’t seem to be interested…

“Komari, you’re troubling Umemiya…” Seigi said while sighing.

“But I wanna play with her too…” I replied.

“I-I’m sorry?” She said confusedly.

I mean, I do want to get along with our sister, but I want to get along with Kako even more, so I shouldn’t force her… What to do now?

“I mean, you told me about the story of the game so far, and it seems quite murderous and unforgiving… Are you sure you’ll be able to play this kind of game properly? You’re complete beginners to the genre, aren’t you?” Kako tried to explain her reasons, and… Well, it makes sense.

But still, “I think we’d be fine somehow.” I told her.

“We absolutely wouldn’t.” Could you please stop, Seigi!? Don’t make things worse!

I get that there is a player that took over the beginners’ city, burned down a temple, exploded a mansion, started a war with other players and…

“Okay, this might really be a bit too hard for us, who aren’t very used to gaming in general, but still…” I ended up giving in a bit.

“I only touched old games a bit, you know…?” Seigi said.

I get that it looks tough, but our sister seems to be having fun playing it, so I want to try it… It can’t be that hard to accept that!

And at that moment, somehow, Kako seemed to flip a switch on her head, “Since you want it so much, I actually have an acquaintance that can help you.” Her expression was clearly determined, totally opposite to her usual inconspicuous feeling.

“Are you okay, Kako…?” I ended up asking her just in case, she doesn’t have a fever or something that made her start acting weird, does she?

“I know someone that has been playing from the start, I can ask them to help you!” She told me, ignoring my worries.

“Won’t we inconvenience this person though-?” I tried asking, but she immediately replied.

“It’ll be fine, absolutely!” She said while grabbing my shoulders…

“O-okay.” Was all I could reply… Kako, you’re a bit scary right now.

“I’m gonna leave first since I need to contact this person, so I’ll see you later!” As soon as she said that, she turned around and started running away.

“S-see you later!” I almost forgot to reply to her…

“… What happened here?” Seigi seemed to be as confused as I was.

Somehow, Kako seemed to suddenly be more motivated about this than we were… But well, if she wants to help us, then that’s fine?

“Let’s thank this friend of hers later.” I told Seigi as we walked home.

“Yeah, sure.” He replied.

When we got home, we found out that the VR consoles had arrived, so we could start playing today! Let’s do our best!

Chapter 125 – Ichijouji Komari's Tutorial

(Komari's PoV)

"Over here, Komari!" Once I finished making my character and appeared on the square of the Beginners' City, Seigi immediately called out to me.

"Oh, there you are." I replied as I moved closer to him, "By the way, my username is Marie. Yours?"

"Masa." He plainly replied.

"… That's so uncreative." I told him.

"As if you're one to talk…" He said… Come on, I did spend a while thinking of this username, alright!?

Figuring it was not worth the effort to reply though, I decided to change topics, "In any case, let's try looking for Kako's acquaintance. She didn't tell us about the person's appearance, but they're probably-"

"You're Kako's friends, right?" A woman in pure black clothing that was holding a really imposing scythe suddenly called out to us.

"And you are…?" Seigi… I mean, Masa asked her. He seemed to be quite weary for some reason.

"I'm the person Kako told you about. I'll be helping you out for the time being." She explained.

“I see, I’m sorry for the inconvenience, but we’ll be in your care.” Masa said while bowing to her.

“Thanks for the help!” I said while waving my arm… Though it’s a bit surprising to see that Kako knows this kind of person, “I’m Marie, by the way.”

“And I’m Masa.” Seigi said.

“And I’m Blossom… Well, for now, let’s leave this city.” Wait, we’re leaving the city!? And she’s not even waiting for us!?

We had to run after her in order to not be left behind… What kind of help is that!?

“Since you’re probably wondering, I suppose I should say it now, but there are no tutorials in the game because the tutorial NPC was killed.” Blossom explained as we moved.

“Eh!?” Both me and Masa exclaimed.

“And since there is nothing meaningful to be done here, it’s better for us to leave right away.” She continued… I did hear that the city was taken over by a player, but I didn’t expect the tutorial NPC to have been killed… Goodness, “Anyways, try calling out <Status> for now.”

“<Status>” We both said as she instructed, and a translucent scream appeared in front of us, showing our equipment, basic stats and some other stuff.

“That’s the default display, you can play with the settings a bit to change its appearance in case you want it to fit the setting better… For example, <Book>.” As Blossom said that, a status screen that looked like an old book appeared in front of her… That’s so cool!

Me and Seigi played with the settings for a bit. I ended up getting something that looked about the same as Blossom’s book, while Masa made it look more like a scroll.

Once she noticed we were done, she asked us, “Alright, now tell me your base weapons and magical elements.”

“I use a sword and fire magic.” Masa said.

“I use a bow and wind magic.” I said.

“That should work for the time being, it’s a decent party balance for starters. I sent a party request to you two either way.” As she told us that, a small translucent pop up appeared asking us if we wanted to join her party, and it seemed like this was also customizable, so let’s change those settings later.

After we accepted the request, she said, “Now let’s get started. I’ll be training you hard up until the next event starts, so be prepared!”

“P-please be kind with us!” I replied.

“Seems fun.” Masa seemed to have already gotten used to her… Also, even though she’s not Kako, she seems to be about as enthusiastic about this as Kako was when she said she’d call her acquaintance. How mysterious.

She then said something a bit unbelievable, “So, for now, let’s search for some players or NPCs to kill. It shouldn’t be too hard if you sneak up on them.”

“Eh!?” Me and Masa said in unison.

“It’s the most efficient way to quickly get levels in the early game. At around level 35 it becomes more efficient to hunt monsters, so we’ll switch to that later, but for now it’s better to go for humans.” She explained… What a weird game, to encourage players to kill one another from the start… “Also, don’t get close to the players that are known as ‘Perverted Gentleman’ and ‘Genocider’.”

“Why?” I asked her while tilting my head.

“Because the pervert is unsurprisingly a pervert, and the Genocider is an absolutely mad woman.” Well, those seem like good enough reasons, I

suppose, “and also my prey.”

She started laughing out loud after saying that… She seemed to be having fun while at the same time looking quite jealous and angry… What’s up with this woman!?

Chapter 126 – The Forgotten One

“I wonder what should I do next…” I said out loud as I heard the pained screams as I ‘played’ around a bit. There was some time left before the event started, and I didn’t have much to do until then. I could have tried to grind, but I’d rather just ‘play’ instead.

Though I doubt there will be many interesting ‘plays’ that will compare well to the one I had with Jeru and Hannes… Maybe I should try going for a new ‘playground’? Plenty of countries declared independence from the Empire after all we did to the capital, so there could be some fun to be had there.

“What do you think, your highness? Any ideas?” I asked him in-between his screams as I took out one of his toenails. It was a bit bothersome that the game even reproduced the smell of him pissing himself during this, but I suppose it tries to be as realistic as possible.

“D-didn’t you say that you would… Withdraw from… Harming the princess…?” He asked me as I stuck some needles on his ankle.

“Well, yes. I’m not going to meddle with her anymore.” I replied as I continued ‘playing’.

“If you kill me… Who will… Protect her?” He asked me.

“Probably not the second prince? He doesn’t seem like the kind of person that cares for her.” I answered.

“He’ll kill her!” He shouted in-between coughs that spit out blood, “He’ll definitely… Kill her…”

“Well, that’s not my problem.” I answered. I promised to not harm her, and I won’t do that. But it’s not my business if she dies on her own.

“If you take me out… He’ll hurt her… If you give up on her-” He started pleading, but…

“I don’t care.” I said while cutting his lips, which made him scream loudly again, “I’m not going to touch her, okay? The rest is not my problem. You living or dying is not related to that.”

“Please stop… I didn’t even finish the peace negotiations with the Empire…” He begged.

“I’m aware.” I said as I continued ‘playing’.

“If I die, not only her, but the whole country will be in danger!” He pleaded. I ignored him and continued on with my business, “D-did you plan on doing this from the start…?”

“But of course? I came to the capital to chase a certain crown prince that escaped from me. I got a bit too involved with the princess though, so I ended up forgetting about my original plans… You could say I’m just tying up some loose ends.” I replied, “But well, if you have any last will, I can hear you out at least.”

… Instead of a last will, he started laughing and throwing insults related to my chastity and deals with the chaos god or something. It seems like there was nothing left to be gained from him, so I just beheaded the prince.

I don’t do things like sleeping around, unlike that man…

Well, that was that, I’m glad I could catch up to this forgotten issue, now let’s… Oh my? The prince dropped something.

Let’s take a look, the drops from important NPCs have been pretty useful so far after all.

———

Unique Item:

Key to the treasure in the basement of the royal castle

Can’t be transferred

———

Sounds interesting alright. Let’s take a look at it before searching for the next ‘playground’.

Chapter 127 – To The Royal Treasury

It sure is dark in this hidden passage… Even though I have the <Night Vision> skill, it was still hard to see. Well, I should get to the treasury eventually anyways, so let's just keep going.

… Unless a guardian golem tries blocking my path that is? I guess this is here to protect the treasure.

My shortsword is bad against this kind of enemy, so I think I'll try changing it up a bit… Can't be helped that I will have to use that though, since I don't have many ways of directly altering my weapon, "<Divine Possession: Kageyama>" I used the possession skill and let Kageyama transform my my shortsword into an odachi again, and this time I won't have to worry about daylight ruining it since no light enters this basement… Been a while since me, Jeru and Hannes 'played' already. I'm looking forward to the next opportunity, but there is still some time towards the event, so… Let's 'play' around with this skill a bit more against whatever comes in my way.

… This monster is a bit too low-level though… It's not gonna be very entertaining, so let's just get rid of it. I quickly attacked the golem and beheaded it. Its movements were sluggish and it was quite slow to react too… Even more so than I expected, I guess it is old and haven't received proper maintenance in ages.

However, it kept on moving even after being beheaded, trying to attack me with sluggish movements that were easy to dodge… Interesting. I suppose there is no reason for an inorganic being to stop moving after being beheaded, I forgot about something this basic since I have mostly been fighting humans.

Well, just gotta make sure it stops moving at all then. With this decision made, I chopped the golem into tiny pieces until it could no longer move, then I moved onwards.

However, it's a bit of a bother to be unable to kill this kind of being quickly… I have some leftover skill points, so let's learn the <Analyze Weak Points> skill to help me on that.

As I explored a bit more, I started seeing that there were some inscriptions about the history of the kingdom on the walls… I don't care too much for this, but Yuu might be quite interested in it, so I suppose I should tell him about it later. Perhaps I should have also brought the crown prince here with me in order to get even more info from him, but he is already gone… Can't be helped, he was annoying and he is better gone. Let's keep exploring.

Before long, I found a group of three more golems, so… Let's test things out, "<Analyze Weak Points>!"

… Nothing? Why is it giving no results…? I guess it's because the skill's level is too low.

Oh well, for now, let's chop those up until they stop moving and… Oh? Are they mixing and matching with one another? They're repairing themselves and fusing just like a super robot! That's incredible, I loved playing with those together with mom! I'm sure she'd be happy to see this!

It's still a bit too low-leveled though… Okay, I have decided! We'll break this one apart until it stops moving, then I'll search this basement for a golem that would make mom proud! I'll tame a super robot now!

I quickly chopped this half-baked super robot until it couldn't move anymore, then moved forward, searching for a better one.

Chapter 128 – To The Royal Treasury – part two

… It's getting boring. This secret passage is quite long, and all I can do here is killing those half-baked super robots that aren't worth taming… Let's do something to pass time.

"Yamada, tell me a joke." I told my familiar, who seemed to start panicking as soon as I said that, "Don't start moving crazily like that while I'm holding you." I hit his handle on a wall to help him calm down.

After it stopped moving wildly, it ended up saying that it was too unreasonable for me to make a request like that all of a sudden, "Just what is our relationship, again?" I asked him while dismantling another golem.

He seemed to remember his place, as after a small pause, Yamada sent a joke saying, 'what's does an AI and a citizen living under a dictatorship have in common?' with the answer being, 'both have no human rights and are under heavy surveillance.'

… It wasn't wrong, but this joke was annoying. More importantly though, "You're aware that you're an AI?" I asked him, though he didn't answer, "Did you learn about it once you were tamed? I wonder if it's to make you properly behave, differently from the normal monsters in the wild."

… He says he learned about it in order to soothe his master loneliness… Hmph! As if I'm lonely!

I hit Yamada against the wall before saying, "I'm not lonely, I just play solo!" I like playing by myself, and I can talk to Yuu and Maria if I want to, I'm not lonely… Sure, I can't really make friends on my own, and I have a

hard time keeping up with ‘ordinary’ conversations, but it’s fine for me to be by myself in an MMO, the designers surely made the game in a way that could allow people to play by themselves if they wanted to.

“Okay, enough of that. Your turn now, Kageyama.” I told my other familiar, who was clearly troubled by this order, “But of course you have to say a joke too, everyone has to, actually.” They all seemed to panic now… Why weren’t they expecting it? It’s not like Yamada would be the sole sacrifice or something.

Kageyama then said, ‘What are the similarities between AIs and candy?’ are they all going to go with riddles? ‘Both are disposable’ was his answer… It made sense, but it felt like a copy of Yamada’s riddle.

“Alright, your turn now, Azabu. And by the way, the one that tells the least interesting joke will go through a punishment, alright?” I told them to see if they would put a bit more effort into this. They obviously weren’t happy with it, but I told them that, “No complaints will be accepted.”

They understood that they have no choice, so Azabu told a riddle too, ‘What are the similarities between AIs and livestock?’ with the answer being, ‘neither can go against the wills of the humans.’

“Wow, you’re all pretty self-deprecating, alright.” I told them. It’s true that they’re programmed to obey me though, but it’s interesting that they’re self-aware of it, “Are any of you dissatisfied with the way things are right now?” I ended up asking them… I got no answer though, “Why are you all suddenly silent?” I asked.

It felt like they were all trying their best to not make eye contact with me, even though they didn’t even have eyes… Was this some sort of camaraderie? Did they become friends while I was offline or something? That’s not a bad thing, I suppose.

Though it makes me curious, “What about Hanako and Takeo? How do you feel about them?” When I asked that, my original familiars seemed to shiver in fear, while Hanako and Takeo seemed to run away giggling. I wonder what caused all that.

Well, they're not going to run far from me either way, and none of them will cause serious trouble for each other regardless, because after all, "I am your master, just remember that. You cannot disobey me, and you must be always ready to fight for me. Keep that in your heads."

After that, I continued wasting time while chatting with my familiars as I explored this basement.

Chapter 129 – The Treasury

After a while talking to my familiars and destroying more golems, I eventually arrived at the treasury. I still didn't find a super robot worth taming, but I suppose I could look for it calmly later. Perhaps I need to find a 'rare mob' like Yuu calls them.

Either way, I used the crown prince's key to open the door and found a room that looked quite like something you'd see in sci-fi. It felt completely out of place in the middle of this fantasy setting, though maybe it's one of those 'ancient technological civilization' thingies.

As I advanced inside however, a weird machine in the middle of the room started moving. I immediately attacked it, but my attack was repelled by some sort of barrier, "Warning. Brutish methods are not allowed within this sanctum. Only the wise may pass." The machine, which got up and now looked like a proper golem, said.

I guess I just need to solve a puzzle of sorts then? It's probably some minigame that management made in order to make some parts of the game impossible to clear with raw stats alone… I guess it's alright.

———

Quest No.00521

Unique Quest: The Ancient's Knowledge Test

Commissioner: Almighty Golem

Task: Solve a question of the golem within the time limit in order to get the chance to attack it. Defeat it or prove your worth to it in order to clear the quest.

Rewards: The treasures within the room.

Note: Unique quests can only be accepted once per person, regardless of success or failure.

Do you accept the quest? <Yes/No>

———

I wonder what kind of power it uses that is strong enough to even repel my attacks… Let's not mind this, it would just bother me if I tried reasoning about this one. I pressed <Yes>, and the golem started talking, "If you buy a white bread and a brown bread, you'll pay 110G.

"White bread costs 100G more than the brown bread.

"How much does the brown bread cost?"

That's the question? This is kinda lame… "5G." I answered.

The golem answered with, "Correct" and I immediately cut it in half as soon as it said this.

But since it's a golem, it kept on moving anyways, getting up and reattaching its parts, while also saying, "Next question,

"It starts snowing in the morning and continues steadily throughout the day. A snow-plow that removes snow at a constant rate starts plowing at noon. It plows 2 miles in the first hour, and 1 mile in the second. What time did it start snowing?"

"11:23am." I replied… So boring, I was hoping for some form of puzzle, but they're just logical questions that any high schooler could easily solve, what was in the management's head?

"Next question… Wait, what are you doing?" The golem asked.

"Bypassing the puzzle because it's not very interesting." I answered while breaking the monitors within the room, as they were not invulnerable like

the golem was.

“Warning. Quit the barbaric actions.” The golem said.

I answered by saying, “It’s okay, your barrier doesn’t protect the rest of the room. Also…” I then rushed towards the golem and cut its arm off, it was quite confused by this.

“… Why was my arm cut off?” The golem asked.

“Because I attacked it, like this.” I answered while cutting his torso in half.

“Why can you attack me…?” The golem asked again.

“Because that is the rule.” I said while stabbing its head with my sword, and twisting the sword left and right inside him… It was simple, really. I just needed to answer the questions of the golem to attack it, there was never any reason to wait for the riddles, I just needed to make it start asking questions on its own, “So, wanna join my army?” I asked it while using the <Tame> skill.

“… It is finished.” The golem answered. I suppose it is a given that <Tame> worked first try in this mob, since it’s just a mass-produced golem instead of a boss. And now I have the Almighty Golem on my side to use against the next player I face… Not?

“What’s that?” I asked as the golem put a thingy in my hand that looked like a miniature version of him.

“I cannot move from here, so this will be the one to accompany you instead.” The golem answered… I suppose that the skill of becoming invulnerable for as long as the opposing enemy doesn’t answer your questions properly might be too unbalanced, so they could only give a downsized version? I’ll need to test this one later.

“I see… Well, I’m happy that I solved the puzzle at least. Though you? I’m disappointed with you.” This was an extremely boring puzzle after all, the

devs failed at this part, so… “Goodbye… Forever.” Let’s get rid of it for good.

“What!?” The golem exclaimed as I detonated the explosives I set up in advance, destroying everything in the surroundings while I teleported away with the <Teleportation Feather> that I stole from the crown prince’s corpse. This was a really practical item, alright. I wonder if I can mass produce it… “Never come back!”

I could hear those last words from the golem as I teleported away… Those, and the thunderous explosion that came right after.

———

Translator’s Note: If you didn’t understand the snow-plow question, don’t mind it, I spent an hour or so trying to understand it before giving up and googling “snow falling and ploughing math problem”. Turns out this is “a famous problem from the 1942 book ‘Differential Equations’ by Ralph Palmer Agnew.”, which seems to involve university-level math and stuff.

Chapter 130 – Ichijouji Komari's First Player Kill

(Komari's PoV)

We were using some bushes as a hiding spot while we waited for some players to pass through a nearby road. After a small while waiting, we saw a party carelessly walk through our hunting spot.

"There, those are good." Blossom told us.

"So those people, huh?" I replied. It's my first battle, and I'm kinda nervous. My hands are trembling all over, but I'm also pretty excited. Let's do this!

"Are you really going to do it?" Masa suddenly asked me.

"What are you talking about at this point, Masa!? This is the most efficient leveling method, remember!?" I told him.

"Yeah…" He seemed to not be very enthusiastic about it, but Blossom helping us out is already a big favor that she is only doing because we're Kako's friends. The minimum we should do is follow her advice… Also, I wanna get along with our sister-in-law as soon as possible, so leveling faster is important… Masa should be aware of this too, right?

"Well, there are plenty of people that don't like killing other players in Virtual Reality games because it feels too similar to killing an actual person, so it's not like Masa's feelings are particularly strange." Blossom chimed in.

"Oh, I see…" I replied. That does make sense, I suppose? And I guess Masa could be worried about that… However, if it's for our sister's sake, so I

must kill those people, “Then, I’ll start, and you can follow up later, Masa.”

“Ahh…” Was his reply. I’m still worried if he can do his part properly, but I just smiled and focused on the task at hand. I can’t get distracted now after all, even if Masa keeps murmuring things about how ‘will you really do it?’ and stuff like that.

I put an arrow on my bow and started focusing on the nearby party… They have two swordsmen; a person with a big shield, who is probably a tank; two people in robes, one that looks like a mage and another that looks like a priest; and the last one was a dagger user, probably a scout of sorts.

… I think the hardest to deal with must be the tank, so let’s get rid of him first.

“Hey, Marie, you sure you-” Masa started saying something, but I let it flow in one ear and out in the other.

“I’ll kill you.” I whispered to myself, then aimed carefully at the neck of the tank, the spot right between his armor and helmet.

Using the <Piercing Arrow> skill from the <Bow Art> skill tree, I shot my first arrow.

“What the!?” One of the players shouted, as my attack hit the bullseye, instantly killing the tank.

“How did this-!?” The priest started talking, but I didn’t let him finish. I used the <Tailwind> skill from the <Wind Magic> skill tree to make the next arrow change directions mid-air and kill said priest from a different direction. This should buy us some time before they find us.

“Just where are those attacks coming from!?” Their scout shouted. This time I shot an arrow straight upwards, then used <Tailwind> and <Headwind> to control its trajectory to make it fall on top of this scout’s head, killing him too.

“… I think I can keep on hunting.” I murmured as I used <Gust> and <Rotation> to shoot an arrow straight ahead, piercing through the head of their mage…

Unfortunately, it seems the rotation added too much power to the arrow, so it actually went through the mage’s head and continued onwards, piercing the belly of a swordsman at a non-vital spot. He certainly took damage from it, but more importantly, he noticed our position after being hit by an arrow that flew straight towards him… That’s dangerous.

“Seems like they noticed us. Masa, your turn now.” Blossom told him.

“… Understood.” He replied as they dashed towards us in a mad rage… However, Masa seemed to still hesitate to pull out his sword. This was a bit worrisome, but I think Blossom will help us in case of an emergency, so things should end up alright.

When they got close enough to us however, they stopped for some reason and made a surprised expression… One of them ended up exclaiming, “What the hell!? They’re still kids!”

“I’d feel kinda bad if I were to kill them…” The other swordsman replied.

That’s so weird, they changed their behavior completely as soon as they saw our appearance and decided to try being gentle? I don’t quite get it…

Masa seemed to still be hesitating on pulling out his sword, while Blossom’s expression seemed to scream ‘Do it!’

“Look, you seem like you’ve just started playing, so you should try avoiding joining the Chaos Faction-!?” One of the swordsman started saying… He seemed to be completely off-guard though, so I shot an arrow through his forehead.

“What the-!? You little-!” The other one, who was already wounded by my arrow that had killed the scout, turned his back to me in order to see his friend that just had his head pierced… By the time this last swordsman

faced me again, I already had another arrow ready, so I shot it directly though his mouth.

I heaved a sigh of relief and said to no one in particular, and said, “It’s over…”

<Level Up>

<You Earned Skill Points>

<Your Karma Has Dropped>

<The Level Of Your Skills Has Raised>

The sudden system messages appearing made it sink in more clearly… This battle was over. We won.

However… “Masa! You need to get it together!” I shouted at Seigi.

“I-I get it, but… They seemed like good people.” He replied apologetically.

“How can you seriously worry about that in the middle of a battle!?” I asked him. I get that it might feel strange to sneakily attack someone, but isn’t it even weirder to hold back because the other party feels kind? At least take them on for real once the battle already started! “We can’t afford to be careless once we are already face to face with our opponents, you know!?”

“Well… I guess you’re right.” He reluctantly nodded… I’m not very convinced he’d do his part in the next opportunity though.

“… I mean, if you really don’t like this, I guess we can try something else?” I ended up giving in.

“R-really!?” He was obviously happy with that statement.

“I mean, yeah, we’re supposed to be having fun while gaming after all.” I told him. It can’t be helped if he doesn’t like killing players in the end,

“Although I feel bad for Blossom, you taught us so much already…” I turned towards her and bowed in apology.

She stayed silent for a bit, but then she sighed and said, “Well, I guess it’s alright. There are other efficient leveling methods anyways, I was just going for this one because it’s the best.”

“Oh!?” I exclaimed. So she’s still going to help us?

“Eh!?” Masa too seemed to be surprised by it.

As expected of an experienced player! She’ll still show us the other ideal methods! “Let’s do our best to catch up to our sister-in-law!” I exclaimed.

“… Yeah, let’s do our best.” Masa replied… Well, he’ll have to work harder than me since he is still level 1 due to not participating in this last battle.

“Then, let’s keep leveling until the next event comes!” I exclaimed.

Blossom giggled a bit, “That’s the spirit.”

“I apologize for my sister’s unruly behavior…” Masa made an annoying comment, but I ignored him while looking forward to the future, and thinking of what other skills I would learn as I leveled.

Chapter 131 – The Living Headache

(Eren's PoV)

"Boss, here is the report!" One of my subordinates told me, while as usual, using the wrong way of addressing me… Though considering how sudden this whole lord thing was, and how it has given me headaches, stomachaches and insomnia, I can't quite blame them, even if it's been a while now.

… I still have to correct him though, "It's lord." I said while sighing.

"S-sorry." My henchman replied.

To think it's been long since that woman made me lord… And that she even blew up the mansion that she forced onto me… Good grief. I sighed once more while trying to deal with my usual headache that hardly leaves me these days, "Just what was that woman thinking…?" I said to no one in particular.

Like, why kidnap the princess? Why declare war on the Empire? Why kill the nobles of Hermagne? And why attack the Empire's capital too? She is absolutely incomprehensible… "She even made the prices of everything raise with all her shenanigans…" I murmured while sighing once more.

With our war with the Empire still being unsolved, the myriad of independence declarations within the Empire, and the foreign countries starting to make a move, the supplies started getting a lot more expensive as everyone is hoarding them… This is too rough.

“Seems like you’re quite dissatisfied.” A woman replied.

“Yeah! Like, does she have any idea about how much I’m struggling due to this unstable political situation!? I’m going crazy here!” I exclaimed.

… Wait a minute. A woman replied…?

There shouldn’t be any woman in this room.

I turned around in a hurry, and saw that monster. The one who always makes my life worse each time she comes near me… Why? Why is she here this time!? And why did she have to be here while I happened to be complaining about her!? My head is about to explode!

Okay, calm down. Say something, say something, Eren, something to make amends from your complaints, something to save your hide now…
“Hey…?” I said. Way to go, Eren, you’re great at solving problems while panicking.

Couldn’t she at least knock…? Why does she have to sneak up on me like that…?

“I didn’t know this was troubling you so, I apologize.” She said… Dear gods, I’m so dead.

“H-h-hey, come on, calm down, let’s talk.” I hurriedly said. I can’t let things get any worse, please forgive me!

“Coming to think about it, I never gave you any reward for all your hard work, I really should fix that.” She started saying… Oh, please, gods no, don’t let her do that!

“I-I-I-I-I-I actually got some pretty good tea leaves recently, you know? I-I-I’ll get some for you!” I said while hurriedly brewing tea as fast as I possibly could while shaking horribly, it was really hard to not drop anything on the ground… Please gods, let her like tea…

“And well, you need to get properly rewarded for your work. Forgetting that is a big deal.” She ignored my desperate attempts to distract her, and

said this hellish statement.

“H-hey, how about a sandwich? I could make one for you if you want-” I was running out of ideas, so I told her that.

However, “Therefore, let’s make you king.” She said that…

“Fuck!” I screamed and ended up letting go of the teacup that was on my hand. It ended up falling on the ground and dirtying it all over… Look at what you’ve done! We had just cleaned this room!

“I mean, you don’t like being the lord of a small city like this, right?” The woman that makes my headache reach levels of pain that I didn’t know were possible said that.

“Le-le-le-let’s just calm down and talk more carefully about it, alright…?” I tried to plead.

“Let’s work while collaborating with Belzenstock to make you king.” She ignored my please.

“Fuck!” I exclaimed as I broke another teacup… That’s the second one in this short time… I’m getting glares from my henchman in charge of cleaning, alright? Please have mercy on me!

“… You okay? Why don’t you relax and drink a bit of tea?” She said while offering me tea… Why is the guest the one offering the tea!? This makes no sense!? “Pretty please…?”

I sighed, “Fine, though I don’t even know why you’re brewing… That’s actually amazing. It’s probably the best tea I ever had.” It was annoying that I was liking something that she of all people made, but I suppose it’s not bad if she makes me happy for a change.

“I actually added Hanako’s scales to the tea as an experiment. I’m glad it was successful.” That woman said.

“Fuck!” I shouted as I let yet another teacup fall on the ground… At this point my henchman in charge of cleaning was just pitying me instead of

glaring, “Seriously!?” I shouted to that madwoman.

“Don’t worry, it’s not poisonous.” She said as a reply.

“That’s not the problem here!” I exclaimed. Why did she think it’s okay to serve tea with bug scales in it!? And she said it was an experiment to boot! She didn’t even try it out herself in advance!!!

“I get it, you don’t like Hanako much… Try this one then.” She then told me.

I sighed, “It doesn’t have her scales in it again, does it?” then asked her that.

“It does not have her scales in it.” She replied… Crazy as she is, she is always honest and doesn’t lie, so… It should be safe.

I drank it, and it was great this time too, “It has a nice sweet taste to it. Did you add some juice or something?” I ended up asking.

“I added Takeo’s scales actually.” She said.

“Fuck!” Once more, a teacup fell onto the ground… I really was about to faint from how strong my headache was right now. At this point my henchman in charge of cleaning was actually laughing… Good grief.

“Do you hate Takeo that much?” That woman asked me.

“It’s basically the same as the other one! Why do you think it would be any different!?” I replied.

“Well, I think each person can have their own personal likes and dislikes?” Was her reply… Seriously? How can this woman have such a hard time understanding such simple things!?

… I really hate dealing with mad people, goodness… How am I to stay sane when this is what I have to deal with!?

She seemed to notice that I was about to explode, and ended up saying, “Well, you seem to dislike insects, I suppose?”

“Just what made you realize this much…?” I ended up replying sarcastically… Ah, that’s bad. I can’t really anger this woman after all, I can’t put myself in trouble like that.

“Well, we can talk more later, you don’t need to worry too much.” She said as she got up.

“Ah… Fine.” Good grief, I don’t want any rewards, just please don’t make things even worse for me…

“I’ll be taking the room next to yours, okay?” She asked.

“Do as you please…” Was my answer.

She giggled, “I’ll do just that then.”

“… Ah, there isn’t any kidnapped person with you, is there?” I think I should ask that just in case.

She tilted her head and said, “What are you talking about? I’m no kidnapper.” As if!

“… But of course.” Was what I said though… At least she left after this.

Once we were sure she couldn’t hear it anymore, my subordinate said, “Boss…”

“I’m getting sick…” I told him.

“Do your best…” Was all he could tell me.

Ah, I want to just throw all this paperwork out of the window and then go sleep… Good grief.

Chapter 132 – The Girl's Glasses

Since Eren seemed to not be feeling well today, I decided to go to the courtyard to test out my new familiar. "Let's see what you can do. Your name will be decided based on the results." I told the golem.

My other familiars seemed to shiver when I talked about name, but I ignored them. Let's start the experiment instead of worrying about their opinions, "So, what can you do anyways?" I asked the golem.

The golem answered by saying it can actually change its shape to mimic other objects, which seems pretty versatile and convenient, kinda like Yuu's weird magic… That's nice, so let's try it out right away, "For now, try becoming a sword." I told the golem.

It nodded and started changing its shape, from a small golem that fit on the palm of my hand, it grew up and morphed itself until it looked just like a sword that was just right for my size… Pretty amazing!

"Then, let's test out the sharpness!" I exclaimed as I swung it against a tree and… "Underwhelming." it did make a dent on the tree, but it was clearly because of the strength of the swing, not because it had any sharpness whatsoever.

Moreover, the golem was also complaining about being swung like that… "Oh well, perhaps the problem is that a golem isn't very compatible with slashing in the first place. Let's try a mace now." I ordered it as I removed my golem-sword from the tree.

Just like last time, it changed its shape again, this time looking just like a mace, "Well, it's a bit heavier than expected, but I guess it's fine?" I said, but… The golem then replied by saying that I was also quite heavy… Rude.

I used all my strength, paired up with Yamada's, to swing the golem directly towards the hardest thing nearby, which was the cold hard ground.

"It hurts? Well, of course it does, remember this punishment next time you want to make unsavory remarks." I told the golem as it complained about being thrown at the ground… That said, the result was also pretty underwhelming. There was a hole on the ground alright, but it was about as big as the mace's sphere… I expected a lot more when using my strength paired up with Yamada's.

"… You're really no good as normal weapons, are you? Try becoming a gun, maybe you'll be able to do something then." I told the golem.

I was unsure if it would actually be able to do it, but the golem did actually become a perfect replica of a gun, to the smallest details. I hadn't really tried out guns in this game, but it should be alright if I just shoot a few times to test the usefulness.

I aimed at a nearby tree and shot!

… I saw no bullet holes though? Did I miss? No, that was not it… "Why is there a bullet near my feet?" I asked the golem, who stayed quiet after my question.

… Let's shoot once more while paying attention to the gun's muzzle.

It fell near my feet again. The bullet was pushed out of the gun with no momentum at all and fell straight down instead of moving forward like it should… "Any excuses?" I asked the golem. It gave no answer again, "Alright, I have decided. Your name will be Junk, or just Jun for short."

The golem was clearly dissatisfied and panicking a bit, but I told him, "You don't have the right to disagree." it's a real disappointment that this defective product was the reward of that boring quest… "Oh well, let's try something that is not combat-related. How about some glasses?"

The golem seemed to be a bit enthusiastic about this request, even if bummed out by the name, and did change into glasses… And what a

surprise, “This is actually amazing.” I could see clearly through the glasses, but not only that, it was also constantly analyzing information and giving it all to me. Like the speed of the wind and the distance between me and various objects… It felt as if I was in the cockpit of a super robot! “So you do have some strengths after all.”

The golem seemed excited about this statement, so it asked me what was its name, but… “Your name? I already told you, it’s Jun.” The golem was clearly disheartened by this, but, “I already decided it, so it’s decided.”

First impressions are important after all, it’s not good to keep changing names willy-nilly. Yamada seemed to be trying to complain a bit about this decision, but hitting his handle a bit made him quiet down pretty quickly.

“Well, let’s keep on testing what you can do, Jun.” The golem was clearly lamenting the current situation, but this much was fine. There are more experiments to be done, so let’s just focus on those.

Chapter 133 – Trouble Is Brewing Again

(Eren's PoV)

"Hey, boss…" One of my subordinates called out to me with this unfinished sentence. I already knew what he wanted to say, but I shivered from even thinking about hearing it, so I didn't reply.

A loud sound of something being hit echoed from outside.

Let's think about this carefully. There's surely a mistake somewhere. Why would I be made king as a reward for my work so far? I don't want that and I don't even know if she means making me Hermagne's king or making an independent country of our own… Nonetheless, both propositions are equally absurd.

The sound of something resembling an explosion echoed from outside.

I mean, how would we even become independent? There's no way that the nobility of Hermagne would let us easily move away, and let's not even think about how absurd it would be for me to become Hermagne's king.

Moreover, I'm already overwhelmed by the work I currently have as a lord, I can't even imagine how I'd find time to sleep as a king.

There was a sound of something being dragged coming from outside.

At the very least, the fact that we'd still be together with Belzenstock regardless of what happens is a bit of a relief, as I have no idea how we'd be able to manage if we were cut away from the resources that come from the port.

The sound of something breaking came from outside…

They may have that weird religion of theirs, but they're still very important for the kingdom, no matter if they were slaves in the past or not.

A thunderous roaring sound from outside…

Also, them having a close connection to one of the Order gods surely helps them quite a bit, being their allies is very beneficial.

Something was being hit over and over again outside…

Not to mention how the port can make trade with the Empire, which can be risky, but also quite beneficial due to how unstable they are.

… I don't even know what this sound is anymore! How am I supposed to focus and try thinking about our current situation like this!? Just what kind of hellish magic is she practicing in the courtyard!? Why can't she have at least a minimum of common sense!?

"Boss…" My subordinate called out to me again.

"I know, I know, I just… Wanted to avoid actually seeing it." I replied. I just didn't want to look out the window and face the reality in front of me.

"I understand, but…" My henchman started saying, but I cut him off.

"We don't have any special training scheduled for today, do we?" I asked. I mean, it would be easy to understand those noises if the men were all practicing hard…

"There's no training scheduled, boss…" My subordinate's expression was a bit troubled.

"Maybe we're testing some magical tools…?" I asked him before he could finish.

"Boss… No tests." His expression was pitying me now.

“And we don’t happen to be under attack, right…?” I asked… Because being attacked would certainly be better than the alternative justification that explains this current mess.

“You know that Rena is the only outsider inside the mansion right now…” My henchman replied. I gotta appreciate that he at least kept up with me as I made those absurd questions whose answers we both knew in advance.

I sighed, “I really can’t escape reality anymore now, can I?” I asked him.

“Yeah, sorry boss…” Was his answer.

Truly… Why does she have to be like this? I sighed once more, got up, then slowly moved towards the window… Each step was harder to make than the last… I didn’t want to see it. I didn’t want to see what she did to what was supposed to be our courtyard.

My breathing was rough, my head was aching, my body felt heavy… But I reached the window. I saw what she was doing with my own eyes…

From the third floor, I looked downwards at the courtyard which was surprisingly still standing… In the middle of it, was that monstrous woman mounted on top of a strange thing… It was like a horse, but it had no head… And instead of legs, it had two wheels… I couldn’t even dare to imagine what that thing could possibly be.

That woman saw me staring and waved before moving around in that strange thing… Whatever it is.

I gave up on understanding and sat down, sighing in relief… At least we still have a courtyard.

Chapter 134 – Chance Meeting – Two

“Then, proceed as planned… Go!” I told Jun as it started accelerating, leaving the mansion.

I ended up not staying there for long due to how out of sync Eren seemed to be, so instead I just decided to ride Jun to Belzenstock.

I already knew how to ride a motorcycle, so driving one in-game was not an issue. The main problem was that the speed Jun could reach was pretty limited, but that was nothing that couldn’t be solved by using some extra buffs from my other familiars. It was pretty relaxing to drive instead of running for a change.

Also, this time testing out Jun seemed like it worked as a good opportunity for my other servants to grow closer with it, so it was probably for the best that we went through it.

Either way, we moved forward to Belzenstock while using <Jet Propulsion>. I could have taken the underground passage again, but I thought it would be more fun to just drive over the surface of the sea instead.

Speed alone wouldn’t keep me up there though, so I had to keep throwing explosives up to make smoke clouds that blocked out the sunlight, then use Kageyama’s powers to make a bridge made of shadows that would lead us to our goal.

The sound of the explosives filled together with the nice sea breeze reminded me of a fireworks show that I saw together with mom in the

past… This felt nice. I could enjoy my time in the game like this even without ‘playing’… I even started singing a lullaby from my childhood as I drove due to how good it felt.

Granted, there were some monsters that tried attacking us, but the explosives made short work of those. And while I did feel happy even without ‘playing’, I still should get ready for the next ‘play’ opportunity, I’m just taking a bit of time off to have some fun right now.

Oops, gotta pay attention now though. A huge wave suddenly rose, so there is probably a big monster nearby. It was big enough to even cover everything around me and block all sunlight… It really is big.

“You, apostle of chaos.” It suddenly spoke.

“Ah… Is it something like that again?” I replied. There was that sea god, Krebskulm, who was venerated in Belzenstock, wasn’t there? Did it come to meet me just like Fanny did?

“You, who harmed my apostle.” The god then said… I harmed Krebskulm’s apostle? Did I even meet the apostle of any god though? Could it maybe be Ronove? I thought he was a high priest though…

Well, let’s ask, “I guess you’re talking about Ronove? Why are you coming out to talk to me now of all times though?”

“You, who scatters Chaos throughout this world.” The god said.

“Oh, great, you gods of order don’t even like to have a proper conversation, I take it?” I ended up asking it. This was kinda annoying… I know I can’t do it, but I really want to kill this god right now.

“Only when order is reestablished, will the sea calm down.” The god said that much before sinking back into the sea… What was up with that? It just came, left some meaningless poem and then disappeared!

<Your Karma has fallen>

<You acquired a new Divine Animosity Skill>

<You acquired a new Divine Desecration Skill>

<New Title: Cursed by the Sea God>

<New Title: Caught the attention of the Seven-Colored God>

… So, I was just having a good time relaxing without even ‘playing’, and now I suddenly got new skills and titles? Why do I keep getting those without doing anything in particular?

Well, it’s not really a problem though, and it’s nice to earn new skills to ‘play’ with, so let’s make sure to use those.

… Later. For now, let’s check out old man Ron, I’m curious about that man whose status I couldn’t even see back then.

Chapter 135 – Belzenstock City – Three

(Seigi's PoV)

"So, where are we anyways?" I asked Blossom as she took us to a city after passing through an underground passage.

"We're at Belzenstock City. We'll work on grinding the level of your skills here." Blossom replied.

"Couldn't we do that in the surroundings of the Beginners' City?" Marie asked her, and I had the same thoughts, I mean… I get that while we did get quite a few levels already, our skills are lagging behind, but… what does that have to do with moving to a different city?

"Your skills level quicker if you face enemies of a different faction than yours, and almost everyone in this city is on the Order faction.

"Also, this game is PVP-heavy, so you should start getting used to interpersonal combat." Blossom replied while looking directly at me.

I looked away from her a bit, but ended up managing to say, "Well, as long as we only face players, I guess I'll be fine…" It still feels a bit troublesome to kill people when things feel this realistic, but Mr. Yamamoto said that our sister-in-law has played this game since the beginning, so we ought to do things right if we are to catch up. Just… Well, I don't think I'd be able to kill someone that doesn't respawn.

"You really okay with it?" Marie asked me worriedly.

I looked at her in the eyes, then nodded, “Yeah, I’ll do it. That’s just how this game works after all, so I can’t hesitate forever, right?” I said while smiling, which seemed to reassure her a bit.

Besides, I can just think of this as kendo practice. If I look at it this way, it’s not as terrifying.

Blossom clapped her hands to call our attention, “Alright, that’s the spirit. The city is still a bit tumultuous due to the recent revolution that was caused by a certain troublesome person, so be on your guards, okay? We’ll be traveling through the alleys for now, so be careful of your blind spots.”

Wait, revolution? Caused by a certain troublesome person? Isn’t that a bit too much of an important information to just be glossed over like that!?

And why the back alleys!? Can’t we just move through the streets and… Oh, Marie is already going through them, I need to hurry after her! Why can’t she hesitate even a bit!?

To think she used to cry when seeing blood when she was younger, and now she easily moves forward with the intention of killing people in a VR game… I wonder how come it is so easy for her to make the distinction between game and reality when things are so realistic in VR.

Suddenly though, she stopped moving. It was a bit weird, as if she was frozen in place. I was a bit worried, so I asked her, “Hey, Marie? Everything okay?” She didn’t answer… “Marie?” I asked again. She still said nothing.

Did she get paralyzed or something? Are we under attack? Blossom did say that things were tumultuous right now, so I guess this was not impossible. I hurriedly looked up to see if there was anyone attacking us from the roofs, but there was nobody where I could see… Where could they be hiding? There aren’t any other hiding spots I can think of that can easily see us!

“Masa… Over there.” Marie suddenly said, pointing forward… Maybe I should have checked where she was looking first before looking up…

“Is an enemy there!?” I asked while turning towards that direction, but…
“Our sister-in-law?”

It could in theory be someone else, but hair and eye-color aside, this player looked exactly like our sister, so it was pretty much guaranteed to be her, wasn’t it?

Blossom seemed to be annoyed at something, but I suppose it’s fine to just ignore whatever she seems to be worrying about for now?

… As I thought of that, Marie was already running towards our sister while shouting, “Sister-in-law!”

“Hey, wait!” Blossom shouted once she saw Marie running… For some reason I got a bad feeling about this, “That’s a dangerous person!” She shouted.

Weird… We both started playing this game just to meet our sister-in-law and to use this as a chance of getting closer to her, but… Right now, I feel like something really bad is going to happen.

… Why? She’s our sister, nothing bad is supposed to happen, and yet…
“Marie, wait!” I shouted too, trying to stop my twin sister, while my hand naturally moved towards my sword.

Marie did not stop though, she moved closer and closer to our sister-in-law and… Got kicked on the chin. With enough strength to not only make Marie be sent flying, but to also make a hole in a nearby wall.

I could hardly understand what was happening right now. I could feel blood rushing to my head and my heart beating so loudly that I felt like it could explode at any time… It was so strange. We were in VR right now, but it was as if time had stopped, as if I was facing death itself.

“Just what are you doing!?” Blossom shouted at us.

Meanwhile, our sister slowly moved towards Marie. She didn’t seem to be looking at humans, but at insects instead… As if she was thinking of what

was the best insecticide to use against us.

“Well, it’s just in the game, so this shouldn’t be a problem, right?” Our sister-in-law said while unsheathing her shortsword.

Chapter 136 – Please Stop It

(Seigi's PoV)

It seemed like time had stopped flowing properly. That I was watching scenes unfold in slow motion. That I was watching our half-sister slowly approach Marie while raising her shortsword while I stood still, doing nothing.

Blossom said something, I couldn't hear it, I couldn't comprehend it, I couldn't understand what was happening. This was wrong… I understood that our sister-in-law didn't like us. That she was avoiding us on purpose, that she might even hate us… But I really thought that something could be done about this, that we could fix this relationship, that things could be better… But this? This is the first time I have seen our step sister smile, and she is doing it as she walks towards Marie…

A weak sound escaped my lips as I hopelessly watched her approach Marie… As I watched that shortsword that was clearly filled with hatred and jealousy being swung down… I could do nothing, but watch Marie get killed.

"For how long are you going to idle there for!?" Blossom shouted to me as she blocked the blow of my sister-in-law. Her scream paired together with the sound of their weapons clashing snapped me out of my daze.

"… Who are you?" My sister-in-law said.

"You don't remember!?" Blossom replied. She seems to know my step sister… I don't know why, but it's not something I should worry about right now. Marie is probably even more shocked than me about all this, so I should help her out, "We fought each other at the event!"

“From the event…? I only remember Hannes and the Pervert.” My sister-in-law replied.

“You remember the pervert, but not me!?” Blossom seemed to be quite annoyed at that comment.

While they exchanged blows, I rushed to Marie’s side. She wasn’t moving, but she didn’t respawn nor was she force logged-out, so she’s probably just in a daze right now… I gave her an HP potion while trying to talk to her a bit, “Marie, you alright…?”

She did not reply. Her eyes kept following every move of our sister-in-law… This is bad.

“Well, it doesn’t matter who you are, could you please not get in my way?” Our step sister said.

“Why? Would it be a problem if I got in the way?” Blossom replied without letting our sister-in-law pass.

Marie must be truly shocked. She always wanted to grow closer to our sister, she often talked about how much she wanted to go shopping together or to have some girls’ talk together… What do I do?

“It is indeed a problem. This is a unique opportunity and I do not want to waste it.” Our step sister said.

“I see… I don’t care!” Blossom replied.

My sister-in-law tried to behead Blossom after that, but Blossom ducked below the attack and tried cutting my step sister’s chest with her scythe. The scythe was held by my sister-in-law though, and then Blossom was hit by a headbutt that made her step back a few times.

“Your attacks are so uncute!” Blossom taunted, then made some swings with her scythe, but my sister-in-law dodged them all with some backsteps.

“You’re a truly bothersome person.” My step sister said.

“That’s a complaint when it comes from you, Genocider.” Blossom called her what!?

Ah… So she’s the person that Blossom warned us to stay away from, that created all sorts of chaos and killed really strong NPCs and… Was she crazy? Did she enjoy the killing? Or was she just really good at separating reality and game and just found it fun to fight against strong enemies in the game… I don’t know what to think anymore… But… Perhaps it might have been for the best if we never tried to approach her.

“I don’t get the circumstances, but you seem to have quite the quarrel with your siblings, don’t you?” Blossom said as she exchanged a few more blows.

“Not siblings!” Our sister-in-law shouted.

Marie reacted to that… Badly. She seemed to be having a hard time breathing, and she was shaking horribly… I need to do something.

Before I could come up with anything though, our step sister suddenly started moving a lot faster than before, grabbed Blossom’s head, then started slamming it on the ground.

“I. Don’t. Think. That’s. So.” Blossom said as her head was slammed over and over.

My sister-in-law looked strange right now. She didn’t have her usual expressionless face, nor that faint smile she showed as she approached Marie a small while back… She seemed… Angry, Hasty, Stressed… I’m not sure, it seemed like a myriad of emotions were flowing through her face non-stop right now…

“Me and them are not family, what is hard to understand on that!?” Our step sister shouted… I don’t think I have ever heard her shout before today…

Blossom just laughed though… She laughed as she said, “So those two are your weaknesses, Genocider? It’s funny to see your face distort in so many ways like it is right now-” and then my sister-in-law immediately got back

to bashing Blossom's head on the ground… Why was Blossom making her even angrier…?

Just as I wondered that, I got a PM from Blossom with a single word in it, 'distraction'.

"P-please stop it…" Marie finally said something… I wasn't even sure if our sister-in-law heard this, but she definitely did not stop.

It hurt to think of sacrificing Blossom like this, but… When considering Marie's current state, about what she must be going through right now, the choice was incredibly easy.

I held Marie's hand and forced her to get up, she finally showed some reaction to this as she said, "M-Masa…?" She then turned her head back towards our step sister and said again, "Please stop…"

Our sister was not going to stop, and I was not going to let Blossom's efforts be in vain. I pulled Marie with me and started running away… It seemed like Marie still didn't quite understand what just happened, but I kept on pulling her, while the noises of Blossom's head being slammed kept echoing behind us.

Chapter 137 – Hindrance

(Blossom's PoV)

"Did they escape…?" The Genocider said once Masa dragged Marie away. Instead of her usual expressionless face that makes it look like she doesn't care about anyone other than herself, the Genocider instead was visible shaken and angered right now… So that's what she is like when her emotions are out in the open?

"Why do you hate your siblings so much to the point you're like that-!?" I asked her, and in response, she slammed my head again, this time making a crack on the ground… This is frustrating.

"Die." She said while pulling my head up.

"I refuse!" I exclaimed as I kicked her sides, throwing her away, allowing me to recover my posture and grab my scythe again.

"You have some bad habits with your feet." The Genocider told me.

"As if you're one to talk!" I replied as she got up… Even though I had just thrown her to a wall with my kick, she got up, seemingly unharmed, while emanating a gloomy murderous aura… "I don't know the circumstances, but what kind of older sister kicks her younger sibling when the latter just wants to get along!?"

"I have no sister!" The Genocider exclaimed while rushing towards me, trying to stab my heart. Her movement was really easy to read and dodge though. It's surprising to see how much this is affecting her, to the point she can't even fight properly.

“She’s quite the good girl, you know? Why don’t you try getting along?” I asked her while swinging my scythe sideways, though she dodged it by backstepping.

“That’s none of your business.” She replied as she tried to behead me, but I ducked behind the blow.

“Is that so? To me you look just like a child that says she hates some food you never ate though. How can you dislike her without even knowing her!?” I told her.

The Genocider charged against me again after I said that. It felt like it would be an easy to dodge attack, but just as I was moving out of its way, her shortsword was suddenly taken over by a shadow and had its length stretched, reaching my neck quicker than expected… I’m not losing here though!

I parried the sword attack with my scythe just as it grazed my neck, “I’ll say it again. This is none of your business.” the Genocider said.

“Is that so…?” I replied as I swung my scythe vertically against her. She dodged it at first with a backstep, but I was already expecting it and jumped after her with a horizontal swing of my scythe. She moved her head backwards to dodge it again, but the scythe was able to cut her bangs and make a small scratch on her face.

It was just a small blow, but I finally landed an attack on her without requiring a surprise attack, “Well, I don’t care about that!” I told her.

“You’re so annoying…” The Genocider replied.

“This may be about other people’s lives, but I can’t simply stay idly as my friend is harmed like that!” I exclaimed. In the game or not, me being unrelated or not. It doesn’t really matter, I’ll lend a hand to a friend in need! “Also, you’re way too selfish and your mind is totally messed up!”

We exchanged a few more blows after that without either of us gaining ground on the other. In this meantime the Genocider became completely

expressionless again and stopped leaving easy openings.

That said, I'm still just buying time for the two of them. There isn't much of a point to this fight where the both of us can't really give it our all, so buying time is enough.

But still, I want to help Marie. And because of that, "I'll make you consider Marie your sister-in-law!"

As I shouted that, both of us rushed towards one another once again. As we were about to clash our skills though, arrows rained from the sky, aimed directly at us.

We had to jump backwards to dodge those… Who was it? Who is the hindrance that is getting in the way of our fight?!

"Damn, we missed them both!" A person on the roofs said.

"Move to plan B!" Another one ordered.

"Do we have a plan B…?" The first one replied.

"I just wanted to say that at least once! Just try controlling their movements somehow!" The 'leader' said in response.

… Is this a guild that was trying to kill me and the Genocider to try making a name for themselves? How bothersome! I was about to start singing praises of Marie to the Genocider, but those pests had to interrupt!

"You're really getting in the way?" The Genocider said that towards them. A cold murderous aura was being emanated from her.

"I don't know why you're here, but…" I was about to threaten them too, but I decided to check my e-mail first just in case. Maybe the event had already started and this group was just the first of many… But no, I didn't miss any announcement, there is still no set date for the event.

"All of you…" The Genocider started saying something.

“What is it?” I asked her. She threw an iron scrap towards me in response to this question, but I dodged it.

“All of you are a big annoying hindrance. <Destruction Game: Slaughterer’s Organs>!” The Genocider seemed to be getting serious.

“I agree that there are a lot of annoying people here. <Earthshaking Vainglory: I Shine Alone>” I replied to her, and then the both of us started attacking these annoying players, while keeping a healthy distance from one another.

Chapter 138 – Official Bulletin Board – eleven – and a bit more

[Unofficial event] Made on a whim – Thread 5 [Because I can’t wait]

1. Gonzales Yamamoto

This is a general chat thread.

Let’s write freely.

However, if you don’t abide the basic rules, this thread will disappear.

Previous thread: http: // ******

>> 980 Next thread, please.

And that’s why this is here, anyone in?

2. Nameless Adventurer

It’s a party!

3. Nameless Adventurer

We’re finally getting our swimsuit episode! Lol!

4. Nameless Adventurer

Attack the raid bosses!

5. Nameless Adventurer

Well, that’s one way to make PK more interesting.

6. Nameless Adventurer

Doesn’t look that fun to me.

7. Nameless Adventurer

Anyone confirmed that they’re participating so far?

8. Nameless Adventurer

>> 5

Is this a reference to the last official event?

9. Nameless Adventurer

How will this even work? Won’t we all die as soon as we’re seen?

10. Nameless Adventurer

I don’t think there’s any chance of success here…

11. Gonzales Yamamoto

Worst comes to worst, you’re just gonna have some fun attempting a suicide attack on the top players, so I don’t think it’s that bad. Either way, here is the info for anyone that missed it from the last thread:

Goal: All-out-PVP

Current Seekers: 55

Current Hiders: 56

Location: Currently Undecided

12. Nameless Adventurer

Sounds interesting.

13. Nameless Adventurer

So we’re just lining up to be killed?

14. Nameless Adventurer

Maybe? Gotta wait until more details are decided, since right now it seems kinda pointless.

15. Nameless Adventurer

It’s a party!

16. Nameless Adventurer

We’re finally getting our swimsuit episode! Lol!

17. Nameless Adventurer

Why are they repeating themselves?

18. Nameless Adventurer

No clue, lol!

19. Nameless Adventurer

Lol!

20. Nameless Adventurer

We’re finally getting our swimsuit episode! Lol!

21. Nameless Adventurer

Lol!

22. Nameless Adventurer

They really said it again…

23. Nameless Adventurer

Swimsuit PVP event? Lol!

24. Nameless Adventurer

Be serious here!

25. Nameless Adventurer

Swimsuits!

******

87. Gonzales Yamamoto

Goal: All-Out PVP!

Event name: Swimsuit Episode!

Location: Belzenstock City

Scope: The whole city

Current Seekers: 95

Current Hiders: 105

88. Nameless Adventurer

We should go after the Genocider!

89. Nameless Adventurer

>> 1

You really gave in to the swimsuits? Lol!

90. Nameless Adventurer

We’re really going to search the whole city?

91. Nameless Adventurer

>> 90

It’s probably a good idea to work in groups to exchange information more easily.

92. Nameless Adventurer

Hide and Seek looks fun now.

93. Nameless Adventurer

I’ll have to prepare a map.

94. Nameless Adventurer

Let’s go after the Genocider!

95. Nameless Adventurer

Yeah, sure.

96. Nameless Adventurer

This is too dangerous.

97. Nameless Adventurer

Better than trying to go after the Genocider at least.

98. Nameless Adventurer

I almost died there…

99. Nameless Adventurer

>> 1

Seems like people are already dying! Lol!

100. Nameless Adventurer

Let’s go after the Genocider!

101. Nameless Adventurer

Don’t be silly, you’ll die.

102. Nameless Adventurer

The hiders seem to be close to being wiped.

103. Nameless Adventurer

Let’s go after Hannes then!

104. Nameless Adventurer

I’m dead!

105. Nameless Adventurer

We could go after the top 5 players of each faction.

106. Nameless Adventurer

Oh…

107. Nameless Adventurer

Yes! It’s decided! Case closed, court dismissed!

108. Nameless Adventurer

Why is it suddenly getting harder!?

109. Nameless Adventurer

Because it’s more fun like this.

110. Nameless Adventurer

Oh dear…

111. Nameless Adventurer

Mom, prepare a grave for me…

112. Nameless Adventurer

>> 1

Can you update the goals?

113. Gonzales Yamamoto

Goal: All-Out PVP!

Event name: Swimsuit Episode!

Location: Belzenstock City

Scope: The whole city.

Seekers: 150

Hiders: Top 5 players of each faction.

114. Nameless Adventurer

You’re gonna need to get the top 15 players to come to the city to participate, won’t you?

115. Nameless Adventurer

>> 1

We need some sort of ending condition to the event, don’t we?

116. Gonzales Yamamoto

>> 115

Alright, how about this?

Victory Condition: Beating 5 of the top 15 players.

Defeat Condition: Losing half of our seekers, or me dying.

117. Nameless Adventurer

This is gonna be rough…

118. Nameless Adventurer

Well, I don’t mind being killed by the Genocider.

******

211. Gonzales Yamamoto

Goal: All-Out PVP!

Event name: Swimsuit Episode!

Location: Belzenstock City

Scope: The whole city.

Seekers: 150

Hiders: Top 5 players of each faction.

Victory Condition: Beating 5 of the top 15 players.

Defeat Condition: Losing half of our seekers, or me dying.

212. Nameless Adventurer

Good luck, everyone.

213. Nameless Adventurer

Now advertise this in as many threads as possible!

214. Nameless Adventurer

You know, there is no way anyone will go after the Genocider or Absolutely Inviolable Area.

215. Nameless Adventurer

Yeah, those two are no good.

216. Gonzales Yamamoto

>> 214

>> 215

Alright, then as an incentive, I'll give a premium item that can raise or decrease someone's Karma by 10 to whoever defeats one of those two.

217. Nameless Adventurer

Woah!

218. Nameless Adventurer

That item is pretty expensive, you know?

219. Gonzales Yamamoto

It's alright, I have rich parents! Lol!

220. Nameless Adventurer

Should I give this a try?

221. Nameless Adventurer

It’s getting interesting now.

222. Nameless Adventurer

The organizer surely doesn’t hold back…

223. Nameless Adventurer

Must be good to be rich! Lol!

224. Gonzales Yamamoto

Btw, I’ll also give 5 tickets to the premium gacha to whoever gets the most contribution into the event if the seekers win!

225. Nameless Adventurer

Now that’s quite something.

226. Nameless Adventurer

Let‘s do this, everyone! No holding back!

227. Nameless Adventurer

We’re all dying today! Lol!

228. Nameless Adventurer

First kill is mine!

229. Nameless Adventurer

What’s up with those guys? Lol!

230. Nameless Adventurer

Leave them be, it’s funny to see their banter anyways.

******

(Blossom’s PoV)

Those hindrances seem to be focusing mainly on the Genocider for some reason… How weird.

They’re being useful for holding back the Genocider though, so it’s not too bad. I’m happy for as long as their interference helps Komari and Seiji escape… I can’t really tell them who I am, but I’m definitely going to do everything I can for those two. They‘ve always helped me out at school, so it’s now my turn to be useful!

I don’t know why the Genocider hates her siblings so much, but I’ll be sure to help them overcome this issue!

Chapter 139 – Playmate

Where did they escape to? Because of these unexpected hindrances and that gothic girl, I ended up losing track of that woman's children…

I stabbed the abdomen of a player that had tried to attack me, which seemed to be the last one of the nearby hindrances, "Why did you get in my way, and where did those two escape to?" I asked the stabbed guy as he fell on the ground. I avoided aiming at his vitals, so he should be able to answer.

"I-I'll talk! So please take it out!" He asked me. I suppose it can be hard to talk with a sword in his abdomen, so I removed it from now, then stepped on top of his back to make sure he wouldn't flee.

"Why are you here?" I asked him again.

"A-an event was made on the official bulletin board. Putting the top 5 players of each faction as the targets!" He said. So I was basically unlucky with their timing? And considering the circumstances, more of those players will probably come even though I just wiped this batch.

"I'm in a bad mood right now… You got in my way when I had a chance to deal with that hateful person…" I said. I have been enduring these feelings for so long. It was such a wonderful surprise to see them coming to me themselves, just offering themselves to be destroyed… I don't care if they're innocent children. I hate them, that's enough reason.

And yet, there had to be so many hindrances in my way… "Was this organized by that goth girl, Blossom?" I asked him. She was so annoying and set on getting on my way… It wouldn't be surprising.

"Eh? No, she was one of the targets too…" The guy said, so I kicked his face.

“You know, I really want to vent this anger right now… You’re one of the causes of it, so don’t you think you should help me out?” I told him. The guy started apologizing as I said that, but I ignored it, “Tell me where she went.”

Let’s make use of this opportunity. I can make those hindrances ‘playmates’ and participate on their event. I can hunt that annoying goth girl which should also be near that hateful little girl who approached me defenselessly… And then I can throw all this anger at her.

“Look, I don’t know where she-” He started saying, but I shut him up by stomping my foot on his head.

Yeah, I can get a rematch against Jeru if he happens to be participating too, this doesn’t seem like a bad idea. But first, let’s get rid of this useless thing. I beheaded this worthless guy as he said some stuff about being happy about being stepped on by me, and then started searching for Blossom. I might even be able to have fun today if I can get some good opportunities to ‘play’ after all, so I should get rid of those two annoying pests quickly.

Chapter 140 – Even so…

(Komari's PoV)

"I'm gonna try again!" I told Masa while trying to shove him, who was blocking my path, away. I was surprised by our sister's reaction, but I'm not gonna give up just because I was rejected again… I won't give up just yet.

"I don't want you to…" Masa held my arm while saying this. Even though he also wants to get along with our sister, he keeps stopping me… What is he so afraid of? He even sent her a bouquet of flowers on New Year's! He knew from the start that this wasn't going to be easy!

"What are you two doing?" Blossom suddenly arrived and asked us as she saw our quarrel.

"Well, you see, Blossom… Marie wants to-" Masa started saying, but I cut him off.

"Talk to our sister!" I told them both. Our sister's reaction may have been a bit too much, to the point that I was even frozen in place, but… I don't want to miss this chance of improving our relationship! "We haven't talked at all yet! She hasn't heard what I want to say yet!"

"How can you say that after seeing her reaction!? She hates us, Marie!" Masa shouted at me.

I understood that much… My eyes were tearful, I was trembling, I was clenching my fists so hard it hurt… I know that she hates us. I know that she always avoids and ignores us, but… I don't care if those actions of her come from hatred!

“So, what!?” I told him, “I’m not the father who betrayed her mother, nor the woman who had an affair with her father! It’s not my fault that our parents had a messy relationship!”

“But to her it is! To her we’re the same as mom! We’re just… The children of the woman she hates.” Masa said while clenching his fists.

“But we’re not the same!” I shouted back. He too seemed on the verge of crying. I felt guilty from fighting with him like this, but still… I just want to get along, as family, why is this so hard? “We didn’t do anything bad. Nor to her nor to her mother… We didn’t do anything wrong, did we…?”

“But some people can’t make this distinction! Not everyone is like you that can clearly separate things!” Seigi shouted at me.

“I can’t accept that, you stupid!” I yelled. This makes no sense! We’re not doing anything wrong. A criminal’s child is not a criminal! “I’m not giving up on getting along with our sister! There’s no way I’m giving up!”

“Even when she hates us that much!?” He asked me. I get it… I get that she hates us, but… I think things can get better. It’s not too late to improve our relationship. To understand each other better… I can’t simply let us stay apart forever because of her hatred.

No matter how many times she rejects me, “Yes! I’ll keep trying again and again! I’m gonna make her look at me for who I am, not for who our parents are!” I told him.

“… You’re really serious about it, aren’t you?” Masa said with a sigh.

“Of course! Aren’t you the same? Don’t you also want to grow closer to her?” I asked him.

I wonder when he became this pessimistic… It’s gonna be hard if I’m by myself, so I’d really appreciate it if we could do this together.

He sighed once again, “Well… I guess we can keep on trying our best then.”

“That’s the spirit!” I shouted now that he finally gave in! Now we just need to find our sister and-

“We need to be strong in order to face our sister-in-law though… Blossom, can you help us out with that?” Masa cut my train of thought with those words.

“I was wondering if you two had forgotten about my existence…” Blossom said in response.

“Ah… I’m sorry.” I replied. I did remember she was here, but I ignored her and continued quarreling… That wasn’t fair with Blossom, she must have felt really lonely.

“Well, that’s okay. In any case, we’re in a bit of a lucky situation where we can get a lot of experience points actually.” Blossom said.

“Lots of experience?” Me and Masa both asked her at once.

“Yeah, some stupid players are going after me right now, so you two can PK them.” She explained. After that she gave us the gist about how she looked at the forums on the way here and found out that some players independently held an event to go after a handful of specific players, and Blossom is one of the targets, “Your sister-in-law is also being targeted, so maybe you could try going after her after gaining some levels?”

“Can we even catch up in such a short amount of time?” Masa asked her. I thought the same as him, I mean… Even if we get a lot of levels now, how can we seriously get close to her that has been playing since the beginning?

“Not exactly, but it’s alright. While level is undeniably important, you can aim for giant killing in this game.” Blossom answered, but I was still confused.

“What do you mean?” I asked her.

“I mean that you can always get behind a distracted person and cut their heads off.” She explained… Ah, of course. If you’re attacking an

unprotected area, even if their level is higher, you can still deal a fatal blow by attacking a vital point… I wonder if the game was purposefully designed in a way to let lower level players have a chance against stronger ones, "Also, you already got the Giant Killer title, didn't you, Marie?"

Giant Killer? Oh, right, from killing those players early on… I got that from killing a player that was twenty or more levels above me… Yeah, I did already kill enemies that were much stronger than what I would normally beat at my level.

"Also, I'm coming with you too, so don't worry too much and try not quarreling with your brother, okay?" Blossom said while ruffling my hair.

"Okay! Thanks, Blossom!" I told her while giving her my best smile.

"Thank you, Blossom." My brother also said.

It was a bit funny to see Blossom try acting as the reliable senior… I mean, I'm sure she is Kako, and while I'm not her senior, it seems like our positions have reversed right now.

… I think that Seigi didn't realize that though, and Kako probably thinks we aren't aware either.

Well, that's fine, "Alright, then… Onwards to our sister!" I said while slapping my cheeks to motivate myself a bit.

I don't know how strong she is, but sister is without a doubt a very strong and hard to beat player that will most likely try killing us on the spot… We gotta do our best!

"Don't blame me if I start complaining after we die though." Masa said… You mean to say you're gonna complain to our sister about it after we get in good terms with her, right!?

Chapter 141 – Whack-A-Mole

A player tried to attack me from an alley, but I threw acid at him and he was melted away. Another tried attacking from behind, but an iron scrap at his head killed him on the spot.

Another one jumped from a roof above, but I backstepped to dodge his stab, grabbed his wrist, put some explosives on his mouth and threw him towards two spearmen that were coming from the side.

Two more tried coming from both of my sides, but I threw iron scraps at them, quickly ending their lives.

This position wasn't ideal, there were too many alleys that people could try using to attack me… Let's go to a better area.

Deciding on that, I jumped up and used a few threads to make footholds that allowed me to easily reach the roof of a nearby building.

As soon as got there, fireballs were immediately shot at me, but I dodged those and threw explosives in the direction that each spell came from, taking care to not let the center of the explosion be too close to the buildings, in order to not damage them too much.

I then parried the blow of a swordsman that tried attacking me from behind, broke his wrist, forcing him to drop his weapon, stabbed him with his own sword, then threw his body towards another player that was approaching me from the side, killing him with the sword that was stabbing the corpse I just threw.

Some arrows were shot towards me, so I used a nearby axeman as a meatshield, then killed the archers with a few more iron scraps… There sure are quite a lot of players participating here.

Suddenly though, a loud sound echoed though the entire city as a gigantic pillar of fire rose up in the distance… Must be Maria. She's probably being targeted too since she's also one of the top players.

When seeing the giant pillar of fire, the residents of the city were visibly troubled and confused. They probably had already noticed the all-out battle between players, but this made them even warier… I should be careful here. I have a good image in this city and I want to use it as a foothold to form the new country, so it's better if they don't associate me with the people causing this commotion.

… I think I should join up with Maria. With how flashy her playstyle is, the NPCs would probably stay away from her, so it should be pretty safe there. Yuu should also be by her side and they both have high karma, so this could also work out in my favor in case things go wrong… Also, I might be able to use their abilities to further my own goals, so let's go find them.

Just as I decided that, a swordsman tried attacking me from behind, but I dodged his blow and beheaded him. An axeman came from the side and I stabbed his chest. Two more archers tried shooting me, but I dodged their attacks and ordered Hanako and Takeo to kill them too.

… It's gonna take a while if I keep handling every single one of them as they come. "Jun, become a skateboard."

After Jun transformed, I used <Jet Propulsion> paired together with Kageyama's <Shadow Manipulation> and Inoue's <Materialization> to make a flying pathway that I could ride the skateboard through.

As I rode this path, I threw lots of bottles of acid towards any nearby players that were either standing still in astonishment, or trying to attack me as I moved, quickly disposing of them.

Some also tried to jump after me as I rode Jun, but I quickly dispatched them with my threads, as they couldn't really dodge mid-air. They also served as human shields to block arrows and magical projectiles aimed at me. Though I just used protective magic to block the ones that passed through the human shields.

Yeah, this is good enough. Let’s continue moving like this while searching for Yuu and Maria. They probably moved from the point that the fire pillar was erected already, but I should be able to find them if I keep looking for flashy spells.

Chapter 142 – Whack-A-Mole – part two

(Yuu's PoV)

"Defeat the legal loli!" A player shouted as he rushed towards us.

"Why are there so many annoying people today!?" Maria exclaimed as she killed another one of those.

We got a PM from Rena as soon as we logged-in today saying that she was going to play in Belzenstock, and that we should come if we were free, so we came right away, but… We definitely didn't expect this.

"Also, I'm still in High School, so I'm not even legal!" Maria yelled as she burned another one of those guys down.

I have to wonder why she didn't bother with changing her appearance more when creating her character if this bothers her that much, but I guess she didn't expect to become popular in-game and have people start commenting on her character's appearance.

Suddenly though, she sent a fireball towards me, "Whoa!" I exclaimed as I dodged it, "Maria, the enemies are over there!" I told her while pointing towards the neverending swarm of players that kept coming after us.

"You just thought of something rude, didn't you!?" She said as a reply while killing more of the players.

"J-just focus on the enemies, alright!" I told her. It's not rude to think she should have made her character better! And what's up with those sudden mind reading skills!?

She still gave me a glare that was scary enough to send shivers down my spine, but she ended up turning back towards the enemies and burning a few more of them. I also followed suit and buffed her up a bit and also used some of my spells to kill any that went past Maria's fireballs.

It wasn't an ideal situation, but at least in this position we wouldn't be able to be surrounded, so we should manage somehow.

… Or so I thought, until Maria suddenly said, "Okay, I have decided! You were deemed as… Guilty!" And then she threw a lot more fireballs at me, some actually hit this time and shaved off quite a bit of my HP.

"What!? This is a conspiracy! An injustice! The verdict is wrong! I request it to be reconsidered!" I replied while trying to dodge as many as I could.

"Request denied!" She said while throwing even more fire at me while also killing some more attacking players. It was good that she didn't forget about them altogether at least, but still…

"I don't like this one-sided judgement at all!" I exclaimed.

"Don't go flirting in front of all of us!" A player shouted, and a bunch of players rushed together towards us all at once.

"We're not flirting!" We shouted together, while instantly stacking up our buffs to power up Maria's spells as much as possible, and then she threw a huge fireball at the charging enemies.

… Or rather, a gigantic fire pillar that rose over the roofs. That was… A bit too much. The ground and the houses nearby were melting even.

I quickly did my best to start using some spells to cool down the surroundings in order to minimize the damage dealt to the city, but I couldn't do anything to the damage that was already done.

"I exaggerated a bit…" Maria commented.

"Well, they were kinda annoying…" I told her in response. Though they would have been less annoying if she had just made a character she liked

more.

“Stop that!” She exclaimed while trying to hit me with her cane, though I ducked under it last second.

“I didn’t say anything!” I replied.

“You were staring, weren’t you!? You damn lolicon! I know about the magical girls doujinshi you have behind your bookshelf!” She exclaimed while attacking me again.

“W-what!? Why do you know about that!?” I said. That was well-hidden and also had a fake cover to it in order to keep it safe! Why does she always find my things like that!? She needs to stop searching my room without my permission!

Just as we started exchanging some shouts against one another though, a certain person arrived and stopped us midway…

Chapter 143 – Whack-A-Mole – part three

(Perverted Gentleman's PoV)

After finishing a busy day at work where I finished a business deal with some of my clients, I went back home, asked the AI that managed my home to prepare dinner, then started doing my daily work out routine to keep my body in shape.

Once that was done, I ate the dinner that was finished just as I finished the work out, showered, then logged into KSO. I had recently finished a quest from old man Ron, so I was wondering what to do next, perhaps it was time to leave Belzenstock City and go somewhere else… I did not have to think too much on the matter though, because a lot of players were staring at me as soon as I got online.

"It's the Perverted Gentleman!" They shouted. To think that this many people would come to appreciate my beautiful muscles, this was quite the treat. Let's make sure it is well-rewarded!

"By all means enjoy the sight, though be aware that I can at most take five of you on at a time." I told them. It was truly a nice change of shape to have them properly appreciating me instead of ignoring my beauty like they have recently.

Instead of only appreciating though, they tried attacking me. I quickly made short of work of the ones that came first, however, for a gentleman must always respond to violence by showing pure physical beauty.

That said, there were a lot more coming, and there was a limit to how many I could handle while still maintaining my elegance, so instead… Let's run around Belzenstock to showcase my muscles to the citizens! The players should not be the only ones to appreciate those carefully cultivated body!

"W-wait!" One of the players said as he chased after me.

"D-do we really need to be seen chasing someone that looks like that!?" Another exclaimed.

"I'm out, I'll go after another target." A third one commented.

This much was fine. Only those that can catch up to me deserve to get the full appreciation of my beauty. The rest can go their own way.

"What's that!?" A citizen shouted.

"Someone call a guard!" Another yelled. It was lovely to notice all the townspeople staring at my wonderfully maintained appearance while I made my stroll around the city. It was a shame that they couldn't stare for long due to the various narrow alleys that I had to travel through, but just the few seconds of admiration were more than enough.

However, not long after I started running around with some players in toll, a loud voice that I knew very well reverberated through Belzenstock, "Can you hear me?" she said.

That is definitely Rena's. The flower that I was still unable to conquer… I may not know where she is, but the excitement of facing her again will power up my entire body!

Let us not waste any more time and run with all my might! I will leave those players behind and find Rena!

Chapter 144 – Whack-A-Mole – part four

As I moved around with Jun, I had to keep dealing with waves and more waves of incoming players. One who tried jumping at me with his sword, that I knocked down with an elbow blow, two others that were leisurely observing and were easy targets for iron scraps, one that tried attacking me with a dagger, that I kicked away… And a bunch of others that I got rid of by throwing explosives at them.

I also used Santa's <Holy Severance> to deflect magical attacks and make them hit other players that were trying to move closer to me, though even with that and with my threads killing many of them while they still approached me, I still had to use deal with quite a few in melee combat.

Some even tried coming after me right after respawning, so I had to kill them over and over again. It was good that they served as shields for arrows though, and I could always put explosives on them before throwing those players towards the archers.

Even then, I think I'm getting outnumbered here. Belzenstock layout makes it hard to move properly, and I can't go all out with the explosives as I don't want to hurt my reputation within the city too much. Even if I move faster than most due to Inoue's, Kageyama's and Jun's help, I still can't really get away from all the pursuers since they seem to always come from all sides. They were even able to hit an arrow on my leg already.

That said, I'm actually having fun 'playing' like this, but it's gonna be bothersome if I miss the chance of killing those twins because this player avalanche kept me for too long.

“Maria, you stupid!” I suddenly heard someone say a shout like that… This is definitely Yuu. And it was great that, just as expected, he was right next to Maria as they had their usual quarrel.

I quickly approached them both and grabbed them by the collar.

“R-Rena!?” Maria exclaimed as she was lifted by me as I rode Jun.

“It’s me.

“I need your help with something, could I ask for a little favor?” I asked the both of them.

“O-of course! Leave it to me! I’ll do anything you ask!” Maria instantly answered.

“I bet it’s gonna be something unreasonable…” Yuu seemed to be a bit less enthusiastic, but it was fine.

“Yuu, I need you to broadcast my voice throughout the entire city.” I told him.

“You’re giving a speech!?” He seemed to be surprise.

“Pretty much that.” I answered. He started muttering something, but I ignored that since I knew he’d do it anyways, “And Maria, can you please launch some colored fireworks for me once I give you the signal?”

“I’ll do it! Whatever colors and intensity you want, they’ll be there as soon as you tell me!” She eagerly said.

“<Din>, <Microphone>, <Broadcast>, <Election Campaign Car>. You’re good to go, Rena!” Yuu told me.

“Can you hear me?” I said as a test. Everyone that I could see seemed to react to those words, so it seemed to be working, “I’m Rena, a companion that once fought for freedom with you.”

“She did what!?” Maria whispered to Yuu.

“She’s talking about the World Quest that we cleared together.” Yuu whispered back.

“Oh, I see.” Maria nodded while saying this.

It was a bit bothersome that I couldn’t gauge people’s reactions properly this time around because I was running instead of standing in a podium, but this was also a lot less embarrassing, so I didn’t mind continuing like this, “You don’t need to remember me, but let me tell you this.” I continued my speech.

“I wonder if anyone could possibly forget about Rena…” Yuu wondered.

“Impossible.” Maria instantly replied.

It was possible though. It’s been months since the time I helped them out, so some of them really could have forgotten… And even if they haven’t, it’s still a good way of showing humility to talk like this, “The city is under attack by an army of migrants that were ordered by the ambitious second prince of the kingdom, who murdered the crown prince and is seeking to further solidify is rule.” I told everyone.

“Wait, the crown prince is dead!?” Maria exclaimed.

“That’s new to me too…” Yuu replied.

I’m busy now, so I can’t really answer them though, “He wishes to use the migrants to get rid of the independent government that currently rules the city and to remove the freedom you fought so hard to obtain.” I said.

“Oh…” Yuu seemed to get what I was getting at.

“She really isn’t holding back at throwing dirt at the prince, is she?” Maria said.

It was just too convenient though. I came here to talk about independence, and a golden opportunity to make them start hating the kingdom was left on my plate. There’s no way I wouldn’t use that, “The kingdom is once again trying to rob us of our faith in Krebskulm!” I exclaimed.

“Poor second prince whose face I never even saw…” Yuu commented.

“Oda… Well, I guess I can be a bit sympathetic to him.” Maria said.

And now, to consolidate my position by putting myself as someone that not only fought for their freedom before, but who will fight for it again now, “Fight! Let us fight against those unreasonable beasts who threaten our order! Who try to remove our freedom and faith! Let us protect our sacred ocean!” I told them.

“… The apostle of Chaos is talking about protecting the Order…” Yuu commented.

“I’d have totally believed that if I didn’t know Rena though.” Maria replied.

I don’t think this will go perfectly. Ron will probably be aware that I’m scheming something, but I don’t think he’ll be able to stop me now that I took control of the flow of events like this, “Fight! Fight for Krebskulm!” I finished my speech, and as soon as I did, the citizens of Belzenstock roared in approval.

“Well… That was something.” Maria commented.

“I have no idea what you’re planning, Rena, but it’s definitely no good, isn’t it?” Yuu asked.

I figured I could ignore this question, so I just kept on running while in good spirits.

Chapter 145 – Whack-A-Mole – part five

(Seigi's PoV)

Immediately after parrying the attack of a nearby swordsman, I cut his head off with my own sword. Blossom was covering my back, so even if we were outnumbered, I still wasn't particularly worried about the attacks from the people that I wasn't seeing.

"Wasn't Blossom supposed to be a solo player!?" One of the players fighting us asked.

"Since when does she have followers-!?" Another one started saying that, but he ended up being cut in half by Blossom's scythe.

"They're not my followers!" She exclaimed. I was happy that she said that while also protecting us like she is right now, so I have to do my best here. I have to raise my level and my skills to beat all those players that are aiming for Blossom… Only if I do this, will I be able to have a chance of fighting against my sister-in-law.

"… This guy is good with a sword." A player that was exchanging blows with me commented.

"How can he keep up when his equipment is clearly one of a beginner!?" Another one exclaimed just before I stabbed his belly.

It wasn't that strange though. My father just taught me swordsmanship directly since I was young, so I happened to be more skilled with it than most players. I couldn't quite understand why I had to bother with learning

that on our current era, but it's being useful now that I'm playing a VR game I guess. Moreover, I'll definitely need this sort of advantage when facing our sister-in-law, so I'm glad to know how to properly wield a sword.

As I thought of that, the swordsman in front of me made a wide movement that left a gap on his defenses, so I made use of that to step on his foot to further hinder his balance, then beheaded him.

After that I pushed his body to the side, to use it as a human shield to stop the thrust of a spear that was coming towards me, then parried a dagger that was thrown at me. Following that, I held the spear that was stuck on the dead corpse, pulled it near me, then beheaded the spearman with my sword.

"Don't get in the way-!?" The dagger user tried to stab me from behind while shouting that, but he was killed by Marie's arrow, which pierced his head.

"Has nobody found the sniper yet!?" One of the players shouted.

"We can't! She seems to move after shooting each arrow!" Another player shouted.

But of course she'll move after shooting. She won't commit such a silly beginner mistake of staying in one place the whole time, it would be too easy to find her if she did.

And as they worried about Marie's position, I stabbed the belly of another player, killing them.

"It's really hard to beat a top player when she also has a party to help her…" A player commented.

"I came here because I just couldn't withstand dealing with the Perverted Gentleman, but… This is rough." A different player replied.

… Perverted Gentleman? That's a username? Someone actually plays the game with this kind of nickname…? "Don't think about it." Blossom said,

as if she was reading my mind… You know what? She is right. Let's just worry about turning all those players into experience points. I wonder if our karma will fall by the end of the battle though. I mean, this should be legitimate defense, right?

"Prepare to die! Gyah!" A mage exclaimed just a bit before having his head pierced by Marie's arrow. He was still able to release his <Crimson Explosion> spell though, so I had to minimize its damage by using the <Water Blade> skill against the explosion. I still lost quite a bit of HP from the spell though.

Nonetheless, I made use of the dust raised by the explosion to rush towards their rearguard and quickly cut through their archers and mages, who were the main threat to Marie.

And immediately after that, "<Body Enhancement: Rejuvenation>" I used the skill that I obtained from getting level 40 and my second class. It might not be considered much now that information about third classes already exist, but this was still a very strong skill that rapidly recovered my HP.

And then, as the dust settled and I stared at the remaining players near us, I shouted, "You're all gonna become fodder that will allow me to face my sister!" I just didn't like them. I don't get why they're all going after Blossom, but she has been really nice to us, and she also resembles Kako a lot… I can't help feeling angry when seeing all those players going after her.

These annoyances are going to be a good stepping stone to let me and Marie reach our ambitions.

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(Komari's PoV)

I shot an arrow, sniping the assassin that was trying to sneak up being Masa, then shot two more arrows against other players that were trying to attack Blossom from her blind spots, then moved places again to not let them locate me.

As we fought this battle, sister's speech echoed through the city and I could hear her edging the citizens to fight against the players… I wonder why she did that. Why put their life in risk when we're all just players fighting each other in a game… And why does she hate me and Seigi so much? Could she maybe… Have some sort of mental problem? Could it be impossible for me to grow closer to her? Will we just be forever unable to solve our problems?

I was remembering how she reacted when I approached her a small while back in the game, about how she tried to kill me right away… Can I really do this? Can I really be a proper family with the 'Genocider'? With this person that has such intense negative emotions… Can I really be part of her life?

… I can. I definitely will. Even if she thinks it is useless, even if we end up fighting, I will have a dialogue with her, I will show her that Reiko is not the only person in her family.

I will definitely do it. I'll definitely say everything I want to her… And until then, I'll keep sniping everyone that is trying to attack Masa and Blossom.

Translator's Note: In case anyone forgot, Reiko is Rena's mom.

Chapter 146 – Siblings' Quarrel

After I finished my speech and got rid of most players that were in my immediate vicinity, Yuu asked me a question, "Rena, what are you going to do now?"

"I'm going to vent a bit." I told him.

"Vent…?" He asked. Yes, vent. They have done nothing wrong as they were born without knowing anything, and they weren't the ones that caused mom's death either. It's absolutely wrong to blame these 'normal' people, but…

"I can't forgive them." I said.

"Huh?" Yuu was understandably confused, but that was fine. I didn't care if I was bad or unreasonable, I didn't care if I was blaming the wrong people. I just can't forgive them… And if I can't forgive them, I don't need to make up with them. I can throw away any unreasonable attempts of getting closer and just 'play' with them.

"I absolutely cannot forgive them." I said once again. It would be fine if they were strangers. I'm sure mom would be happy if I was able to make more friends other than just Yuu and Maria, but… With them? That's impossible.

"Hey, you!" A voice I heard not too long ago suddenly said. The three of us turned around towards the source, but nobody replied.

The voice came from that goth girl that got in my way a while back, and next to her were those twins I was searching for… I felt a bit sorry for Yuu and Maria who were completely out of the loop, but I didn't have the time to explain things to them right now.

“Hey, you two!” The goth girl called out to us again.

“Eh? Us!?” Maria and Yuu said in unison.

“Who else is there other than you!?” That girl was Blossom, right? What business does she have with Yuu and Maria…? “You two come with me. Outsiders should leave.”

“Eh? What did I do to catch the eye of the second place in the Chaos Faction…?” Yuu wondered out loud.

“I can think of a lot of things…” Maria replied.

Should I worry about this? What could Blossom be planning? Won’t this be over in no time without her interference?

“Rena and those two” Blossom pointed towards the twins, “have some stuff that they need to settle, so could you please hurry up and leave?”

“I guess there is a weird atmosphere around us right now… Even for Rena’s standards.” Yuu said.

I suppose he might be right. It wouldn’t be a surprise if they were shocked after seeing me ‘play’ with the twins, so it’s probably for the best that they go away… Though that’s still worrisome in its own right.

“Maria.” I decided to hold her back for a bit, so I put my hand on her shoulder and whispered that in her ear.

“Y-y-y-y-yes!?” She replied.

“When Hanako gives you a signal, please make a big firework for us, alright?” I told her.

“U-u-u-understood! Too close… Face… Beautiful…” I couldn’t hear what she was murmuring after she agreed to my request, but I suppose that’s alright. I wonder what’s causing this weird behavior though.

Well, both Yuu and Maria have their eccentricities, so I might just leave it at that.

“T-t-then, I’m going!” Maria said as she ran away from me.

“Be careful, Rena.” Yuu said before leaving too.

“… What’s up with those two?” Blossom said as she left. I still don’t get her plan, but unless the twins got some huge skill boost, there shouldn’t be anything that can be done for them now.

“Friends… Those were your friends, right?” The girl of the twins said. Her words troubled me… Was I really this weak? Or is this happening just because they remind me of mom and that guy at the same time… Would mom have told me this same line if she was still alive? “You can talk to people normally.”

“Sister-in-law, your normal expression… That was the first I saw it.” The boy said.

What are they saying? Do they think I just hate everyone or something? This talk is just getting me even more annoyed. Can’t we just start our battle already?

“You always avoided me when we were home, you know? I don’t really know anything about you, sister… I don’t understand why you avoid me.” The girl said.

“All I had ever seen was that tense smile that seemed to desperately hide your emotions each time we met…” The boy said.

“… Just what are you trying to say?” I told them while unsheathing my shortsword and preparing my poison needles. They’re so frustrating. Are they complaining about me? They can do that alright, but I’m not forgiving them either way.

“You talked to me…” The girl said.

“It’s a relief that you didn’t ignore us this time.” The boy said.

“So what? What do you want out of this conversation?” I asked them. Do they want to persuade me? Reconcile? Ask me to apologize? I don’t care if those would be ‘normal’ demands, nor do I care if they have no blame. I unilaterally put up a distance between us because I can’t even vent at them normally… I can’t forgive them, and they’re annoying. I don’t know what would be the ‘correct’ answer here, but I won’t forgive them no matter what they say. I’m not reconciling nor apologizing, those are not options to me…

“It’s just… I’m a bit happy.” The girl said.

“You don’t need to be so vigilant, sister-in-law. We’re not trying to persuade you into apologizing or anything.” They want a reconciliation then? We didn’t even have a relationship to begin with, but they still want me to recognize them as ‘family’? Well… My only family is mom.

“So, sister-in-law…” They both said in unison as they unsheathed their weapons, “How about talking like this for a little while?”

I threw my poison needles at the girl while moving towards the boy, aiming to behead him. He blocked my attack and the girl dodged the needles… Yes, this is good. Let’s ‘play’ for a little while.

Chapter 147 – Siblings' Quarrel – part two

(Komari's PoV)

After dodging the needle that my sister threw at me, I fired an arrow towards her, but she repelled it with another poison needle throw. I expected her to dodge it, but I definitely didn't expect her to hit my arrow mid-air with a needle…

Her flurry of blows against Masa were also giving him a pretty hard time. He tried to make use of his bigger range to get an advantage, but the difference in our levels and on our skill levels is just too high, so it's hard to compensate for that no matter what we try.

Still, I kept shooting arrows aimed towards her eyes or legs to limit how much pressure she could put on Masa. I don't think we'd still be standing if she was going all-out, but our sister seems to be holding back right now, so we're having a fight chance here… Then, let's keep going! We'll both do our best!

"Did you know that love letters are really popular in my school right now?" I asked her.

"Yeah…?" She replied as she dodged the arrow I shot towards her forehead. She seemed to be suspicious of something, but that was fine.

Masa also tried to behead her, but she ducked below the blow and attempted to land a kick at his side. I used the <Arrow Rain> skill to stop her attack and give Masa some time to regain balance though. The problem is that this skill has a high cooldown, but it's still useful for gaining time.

“You see, there was a boy that really liked a girl who was a year older than him. He thought about talking to her on VR, but there was no way to know her contact information online, so that was impossible.” I continued talking to our sister by saying this.

“What are you talking about…?” She said in response.

Masa then used some <Water Magic> to make the ground wet and make sis lose balance. I also used <Wind Magic> to push her and make it even harder to dodge the <Arrow Rain> that was still falling… Yet she kept on avoiding every single one of our blows. I also tried using <Random Shots> to throw a bunch of arrows aimed at random parts of her body, but she parried them all with ease.

“However, that boy really wanted to convey his feelings to the person he liked, so he decided to send an old-fashioned love letter to the girl he cared for.” I told sis.

“Oh, I remember that. Turns out the senior really liked classic literature, so she started dating the boy after she was enraptured by such a passionate and poetic love letter.” Masa complemented.

“I have no idea what you two are trying to convey…” Our sister said as she attacked Masa with the <Super Heavy Blow> skill. He was able to block her attack with the <Water Mirror> skill, however.

“And because of that, there are now a bunch of girls that are eagerly waiting to receive handwritten love letters.” I concluded.

“And the boys are also practicing a lot on writing letters, which is something they weren’t really used to.” Masa also said.

“Oh, this also led to a lot of people getting higher than usual scores in the Japanese language exams.” I remembered that perchance, so I told this trivia to sis too.

“I don’t get the purpose of this conversation…” Our sister said.

This time I tried shooting an arrow at sis while using <Wind Magic> to make it change directions and hit her from the back, but she was able to block it just fine. I was a little hopeful that this would work since it's a technique I used on my first battle against other players, but it seems like this much wasn't enough to hit her.

"Hey, sister-in-law, what's trendy at your school right now?" I asked her.

"I don't really pay attention to trends…" She replied.

"Then what do you do when spending time with your friends? I have a close friend called Kako that is really shy and reserved, but I really like her." I told sis as I shot more arrows at her with the <Random Shots> and the <Invisible Arrow> skills. She'd probably be able to block those too by using some sort of detection skill, but it's enough if this keeps her occupied and unable to land a good blow against Masa.

Our sister didn't really reply to my last comment, so I continued, "Kako looks really cute, but she always hides her face with big glasses and some bangs. Kako also used to read books by herself in every break, you know? She looked so lonely at those times, so I ended up deciding to start talking and getting to know her better, you get what I'm saying?"

Still no reply… It's alright, let's keep talking, "And I found out that Kako is really nice, you know? She always listens to me attentively no matter how much I'm talking. Even when I'm talking so much, to the point that it would make anyone else tell me to stop, Kako always kept on hearing be go on and on and on. I feel like I can really be myself near her and that she'll always be there to support me when I need. She's a very special friend that I care a lot for."

Some players attacked us every now and then during the fight. They were all aiming their attacks at my sister, so they actually served as good distractions that made things easier for us. I felt a bit guilty when I saw them die one after another without really accomplishing anything though.

"And you know, Kako is not only a wonderful supportive person, but she is also really knowledgeable! She reads a lot and learned a ton of nice things

from the books she read! She always helps me out when I'm in trouble with something I don't know!" I told that to sis too.

She still didn't reply, so I told her a bit more, "And you know… Sometimes I even wonder if she's a bit too selfless. It wouldn't hurt her to be a bit more selfish, you know? To take care of herself first before worrying about me."

As we ran out of player decoys to distract sis, Masa used his <Five Moons Slash> skill and I used the <Arrow Rain> skill to try attacking our sister.

"That said, Kako can sometimes be really stubborn! It's really cute when she refuses to budge, but it can also be so frustrating!

"I do think it's wonderful that she can be honest to herself like that though… I really don't think I could have asked for a better friend." I told that to sis too.

I thought she still wouldn't answer, but this time she did say something, "Yuu and Maria are better friends!" she exclaimed.

And as she said those words, my <Arrow Rain> was repelled by some threads that came out of nowhere, and Masa's <Five Moons Slash> was blocked by multiple shadows that came from the ground below sis' feet. She also kicked Masa and sent him flying towards me.

"My friends are nice, differently from you two… And what's up with this conversation in the first place!?" Sis seemed to be angry as she said that, but…

We laughed. And as I laughed, I said, "Seems like you really care for your friends, don't you?"

"It's not like we're trying to compete on friend quality, you know?" Masa also said.

Sis didn't reply, so I gave Masa a potion. Both of us were smiling right now, as we were finally able to have a proper talk with our sister. A talk where

she actually gave us a reply that told us her honest thoughts instead of just hiding her feelings behind a mask like she usually did.

“Just what is the purpose of this farce!?” Our sister asked. She seemed to be really angry, but was also almost pouting. It felt more like a childish anger than some deep unbreakable grudge right now.

I wonder if this is because she is finally facing us properly instead of avoiding us like she always did? Or perhaps it is because we’re talking about friendship when her friends are not by her side right now? It was hard to be sure.

More importantly than that though, I should answer her question, “There’s no purpose… We’re just chatting.” I said.

Now is where things get serious. I think sis was worried that Blossom might interfere, so she wasn’t fighting us seriously due to her wariness of a sneak attack. This might also have been why she was actually answering our comments at first.

But since Blossom did nothing up until now, she probably realized that she had no reason to hesitate, hence why she started using more than just her shortsword to fight.

It’s fine though, because, “We just want to be together.” Both me and Masa said in unison.

The things we talked about so far didn’t have any big meaning behind them. We just wanted to talk about how we spent our time at school. We understood that this wouldn’t suddenly make sis get a change of heart, but… This much was fine.

Because like this, we were talking, we were interacting. We were starting to look like a ‘normal family’. A family that tells each other what happened during the day, as we eat at the dinner table. A family that just spends a day-to-day life together… Having those random conversations is already plenty.

Even if our sister doesn't see us as family yet, I want her to know more about us. I can't accept being designated as her 'enemy' without even trying to get closer first.

And therefore, "Could you please tell us more about yourself?" Me and Masa asked her together.

This was just a start. But if we can go from strangers to acquaintances, then we can eventually become family.

Chapter 148 – Catfight

(Yuu's PoV)

"So, why did you bring us here?" Maria asked Blossom, who had brought us to a hill where we could see Rena and the other two.

"Nothing in particular. We were just intruding on their personal matters, so I figured the three of us should leave." Blossom replied.

For some reason though, there was a really bad atmosphere around us right now… Why do those two girls seem about to fight? I did use the <Eating By Yourself At The Bathroom> skill from the <Loner Magic> tree, so we should be safer from outside interference, but I'd prefer if they didn't do anything too strange… Or flashy.

"I don't know what you're trying to do, but can you please not make Rena sad?" Maria asked Blossom, who did not reply, "She may be lonely, but she's also very timid, so I'm worried about this…"

That's amazing, Maria. You haven't stalked her for that long, but you already notice the subtleties of her emotions… I'm impressed.

"Just what are those two trying to do? I don't want anything bad to happen to my friend." Maria asked Blossom again.

"These kids… They're a bit aggressive on their stance, but they're also very sincere with their thoughts, alright?" Blossom finally answered.

I can't quite get it though… Could those two be people that Blossom and Rena know outside of the game? Rena wouldn't be that shaken from some people she met online, but I guess it could happen if it was someone closer…

“Then why does Rena seem to hate them so much?” Maria pressured her.

“They didn’t do anything… They didn’t even have a chance to do anything.” Blossom replied. She seemed to be getting agitated.

“Well, if they don’t even know why they’re hated, shouldn’t they just give up?” Maria also seemed to be about to explode.

“You say that because it’s not you that is suffering!” Blossom exclaimed.

I definitely can’t open my mouth here. I will absolutely die if I do! I should quietly disappear with the <Pretend To Be Asleep> skill…

“What do you think!?” Both girls asked me in unison.

“Eh!?” My strategy of pretending to be air failed! I can’t give an opinion here, alright!? I’ll die no matter what side I choose, and I’ll just get them even angrier if I give a noncommittal answer! “Well uhn…” What do I even say here!?

“They shouldn’t try getting closer, because Rena dislikes them for a personal reason!” Maria said.

“They should try getting closer, because that woman is one-sidedly excluding them from her life with an unreasonable justification!” Blossom replied.

“So!?” They said in unison again… Why did it go back to me!? They have the right to try growing closer to her if they did nothing wrong, but Rena also has the right to avoid them if she’s hurt by their presence! This is not something we can really solve! It’s really a problem that we can’t interfere with!

“I want Rena to keep her innocent smile, so those two shouldn’t tarnish it.” Maria said while staring daggers at Blossom.

“I want them to spend their time in a healthy environment, so they need to confront that unreasonable woman who refuses to let them close.” Blossom said while looking about as annoyed as Maria…

“I hate those selfish chaotic people that don’t care about how much trouble they cause to others.” Maria said while unsheathing her cane.

“I hate those arrogant orderly people that try forcing people to sacrifice themselves for the sake of others.” Blossom said while unsheathing her scythe.

My stomach hurts… Are they really going to fight here!?

“They don’t have to get along. There are other people those two can be on good terms with that are not Rena.” Maria really was about to explode…

“They have the right to get along. They have the right to show that there is more to family than just that woman.” Blossom also seemed to be on her wits end…

“As Rena’s stal… As Rena’s Guardian, I cannot allow the behavior of those friends of yours to continue.” Maria said.

“Is that so…?” Was all that Blossom said as a reply.

It felt weird right now. My right side was hot, but my left was cold… What could be causing it? Perhaps the flames emanating from Maria and the crimson-dark ice emanating from Blossom!? They’re evaporating and freezing the water inside the waterways at the same time! This is too dangerous! Please lower your weapons!

“I’ll stand by my friend’s side!” They both shouted together as they rushed towards one another.

“Eek! <Neet’s Room>!” I used the advanced version of <Wall Off The World> to protect myself from the clash of those two… Rena, they’re really going crazy because of you…

<New title: Pitiful>

Come on!

Chapter 149 – Catfight – part two

(Yuu's PoV)

"Burn!" Maria shouted as she swung her flaming cane.

"Freeze!" Blossom shouted as she clashed her scythe with Maria's weapon. As the attacks connected, the fire was being extinguished while the ice melted, "Why are you trying to stop that woman who is always trapped in her own shell to experience new things!?"

"Why do you want to push her so hard to deal with something she hates!? Do you think they'll just magically get along if you push hard enough!?" Maria angrily replied as she spread her flames throughout the surroundings, restricting Blossom's movements.

"… For now all they need to do is to have a proper face-to-face talk." Blossom replied while spreading her own ice, which countered Maria's flames.

"But it's a bad way of doing things!" Maria exclaimed as she attacked Blossom again.

"What is bad about being upfront about your desires!?" Blossom exclaimed as she clashed her scythe with Maria's cane.

As their weapons collided, Maria's fire started wounding Blossom, and Blossom's ice started wounding Maria, it was a mutually destructive attack.

"You're way too stubborn…" Both of them said in unison.

"Huh? How can you say that to your senior!?" Maria exclaimed as they both took a step back. There were huge flames emanating from her back.

“Huh? Senior? How is an elementary school student my senior?” Blossom replied with a mocking smile, while creating an iceberg behind her, “Do you think everyone playing the game is still in kindergarten or something? You really need to pay more attention to your surroundings, you know? To think that there would be such a conceited child playing together with me… I’m really sad to hear of your plight.”

… I think that Maria might have lost any remaining composure she had after hearing this sarcastic speech from Blossom. Up until now, it really felt like they were both fighting because of the thing with Rena, but now I’m pretty sure they just wanted to beat up the person in front of their eyes due to being absolutely unable to withstand their existence.

“You little brat! I’m gonna teach you a lesson and slap your butt so hard that you won’t even be able to seat!” Maria shouted as she attacked Blossom again.

“Just who is a brat!? Did you ever look at yourself in the mirror!?” Blossom also charged at Maria as she said this… I really think Maria should have made a taller character to avoid being faced with this kind of verbal attack.

“I’ll kill you!” They both shouted together.

Yeah… This is totally out of my league. It’s a good thing I decided to stay away and stay within the <Neet Room> during this fight. Hopefully they’ll calm down before the duration ends.

… Perhaps I should give up on three-dimensional girls altogether and just focus on the perfect idealized two-dimensional ones instead. At least they won’t ever get into this kind of unreasonable fight.

I wonder how things are going with Rena though. We were supposed to be able to watch what she was doing from here, but with Maria and Blossom’s fight being this wild, it became impossible to see anything… Hopefully things are going well.

Chapter 150 – Siblings' Quarrel – part three

"Could you please tell us more about yourself?" The twins asked me… Tell them about myself? Why? I can't understand. I'm not interested in them, nor at what they have been doing those past few days, this is all irrelevant. Why do they want to know how I'm doing? I can't understand their behavior… And still… They dare ask me anyways?

"You two are so annoying!" I told them as I rushed towards the boy. He tried to attack me with a vertical swing of his sword, but I parried it with my shortsword, then punched his belly… I then held his face and pulled it closer to mine. This disgusting face that closely resembles his mother's.

"Alright, fact #1: I hate your face." I told the boy, then threw his face on the ground. The girl tried helping him by shooting some arrows, but I parried them all with my shortsword.

Immediately after that, I pulled my threads that were around her leg and forced her to fall. Then, I threw her to a wall with my threads, so that I did not need to look at that annoying face of hers that resembled her father's any longer, "Fact #2: I hate you two, who have a mutual love relationship with that man."

As I pushed the girl further into the wall with my threads, the boy tried picking up his word to fight back, but I stepped on top of his head to stop that, "Fact #3: I can't forgive you for chasing after me even after I tried my best to ignore your existence."

I then used my shadows to throw the boy high up in the sky, and used the threads to pull the girl closer to me. I punched her face as soon as she

arrived, “Fact #4: I’m not comfortable with strangers trying to talk to me as if we were family.”

As the boy fell, I hit my elbow against his abdomen, his hips with my knee, then held him by the neck and threw him at a wall. Meanwhile, the girl was trembling, but trying to put an arrow on her bow, so I kicked her belly, “Fact #5: I’m absolutely unable to get along with you two.”

This should be enough, right? I answered their question while making it clear that we cannot grow closer, and that I do not want to get closer. I understand that they did nothing wrong, but I cannot forgive them. I can’t accept being with them, not when I feel such strong emotions whenever I see their face… Because then, I remember mom’s lonely face every time I look at them… Even if I know I was the cause of mom’s loneliness.

“You understand it right? So give up-” As I said this, the girl cut me.

“Fact #1: I was happy when we first met, and was sad to be ignored by you!” The girl said as she stabbed an arrow directly at my shoulder, without bothering with putting it at the bow first… She was going to imitate my ‘report’ now? With that bloodied and tearful face? It’s not really a pretty sight.

I started punching her face over and over again, but she still squeezed up some words in-between each punch, “Fact #2: I was looking… really forward to having… a sister-in-law!”

It was really annoying that she didn’t stop talking even as I punched her. Moreover, she pierced another arrow at my shoulder, and the blood that spilled from me fell on her face, making her even uglier, “Fact #3: I’m sorry… to use such a forceful approach… but I couldn’t think of… any other way that… could let me… have an opportunity… to talk to you.” Of course there was no other way, I purposefully avoided them, ignored them, and made it as clear as possible that there was no relationship between us.

The boy was trying to get up, but the area I threw him at was really damaged, so a piece of rubble fell on his head and he was knocked down again.

“Fact #4: I was shocked… with how fierce you were… when rejecting me even in-game, but… I was happy that you… acknowledged and interacted with… me for the first time. It was good in… a weird way” The girl really didn’t stop talking…

I tightened my threads around the boy’s neck, and held the girl’s hand in place so that she could no longer try to stab me with her arrows.

“Fact #5: To be honest… father and his work… actually scare me a little… And yet, I still… wanted a good relationship. Not just… with him, but with you… too.” The girl then said.

Does that mean she actually had the guts to challenge that man as he tried to teach her how to eventually succeed him in his job? That… It doesn’t matter. I don’t need to understand her feelings, and don’t need to try thinking of what was their exact interaction… It doesn’t change my feelings, and it doesn’t matter if they tried getting closer, it doesn’t matter what I imagine, it doesn’t, it doesn’t… I don’t get it!

“I don’t get what you’re trying to say! Just shut up and be my ‘plaything’!”

I pulled the boy with my threads and slammed him against another wall. I grabbed the girl’s hair, and slammed her head on the ground, then-

“Reiko accepted me…” The girl said.

I couldn’t move. The threads binding the boy got loose. My blood was rushing to my head; my heart was beating faster and louder; my vision was getting red and narrower; I was trembling; it was hard to breathe…

“I really… Wanted… To be… Good friends…” The girl said.

<Warning: Heart Rate is raising above safe levels, immediate logout is recommended>

I could hardly comprehend the system warning I heard just now. It felt like such a faraway and quiet sound… Differently from what the girl just said… Those unbelievable words that came from her mouth…

“S-she re-re-really… Wanted us to… Get closer…” She then said this.

Irritating, incomprehensible, frustrating, unforgivable. Why!? Why!? Why!? Mother could say that, but why!? I can’t do this! I can’t! I was crying…

“Hey, I really, want to… Be close to… You…” The girl said.

“Enough! Just die!” I used Inoue’s power up to squeeze the girl’s neck until it broke, then threw an iron scrap at the boy’s forehead.

… I need to log-out.

Suddenly though, a voice came from above, “Oh, Genocider! What a delight to see you!”

I looked up, and saw that there was someone jumping from the top of a building, and that would soon arrive here… The Perverted Gentleman was here.

Why now…? Why this repulsive sight that would surely disgust mom?

Chapter 151 – Before being a Pervert, a Gentleman. And before being a Gentleman…

(Perverted Gentleman's PoV)

It sure is hard being popular, to think I'd be surrounded by others so often today. I of course had no problem in accepting their advances though, even if the shier attackers gave up as they got closer to me.

And just when I thought the day couldn't get any better, I met up with the Genocider of all things! "It is truly a blessing to meet you again, Rena, let us exchange blows fully in our glorious rematch… Wait, are you crying?"

"Ah…" She just said this simple word as she weakly fell on her butt. She looks so fragile right now that it was hard to believe I'm looking at the same person that I've exchanged blows with before.

"Seems like you had quite the fight here." I said as I looked at the surroundings and saw some clear battle marks, "If you're fine with me, I could at least listen to you." I wonder what happened to make such a strong girl cry like this. Could they have harmed her dignity perhaps? I won't forgive anyone that has dared to do this kind of thing.

"Perverted Gentleman, I'm really not in the mood for this…" She said as she got up and readied her shortsword, but… She seemed to be completely out of it. There was no focus in her eyes at all, "I really don't have the time to deal with a pervert like you right now."

“Hey! Call me the perverted gentleman! Not just a pervert!” I answered as she tried kicking my neck. It was trivial to sidestep to dodge it though. I also gently pushed her back and made her lightly clash with the nearby wall.

“Mom wouldn’t be fine with that…” Rena suddenly said.

“Your mom…?” I asked her. Did I miss something? Why did she suddenly bring her mom up? Could something have happened to her?

“Mom would definitely…” Rena said this now. Seems like I’m missing some pieces of the puzzle here, but there should be something I can do to help her.

“Seems like you’re dealing with something quite difficult…” I said as I parried her poison needle, ducked below her shortsword, and blocked her roundhouse kick, “I have no idea what’s worrying you right now, as I’m an outsider that has nothing to do with it, but…” she then tried to spin around and throw some poison needles at me, but she was so out of it that she actually missed, “I think I should ask you again. Don’t you want to talk to me about it? I can at least hear you.”

Rena then threw an iron ball at me, but I just crushed it with my fist. She tried kicking me from above, but I dodged it with a backstep. Afterwards, she tried piercing my heart with her shortsword, but I just held her hand in place before it could reach.

“Shut up… I just don’t… I just don’t get it! I don’t get what is ‘Normal’! I just can’t comprehend it!” Her usual expressionless face was crying even more than before, showing visible confusion and how stressed she was over all this.

She tried punching my face after saying that, but I just held her hand with my free hand, and said, “You know, your crying face is beautiful too, but…” She was trying to pull her hand back, but she wasn’t able to muster the strength to get out of my grasp, “I don’t like seeing it at all!”

As I said that, I pulled her closer to me, moving both of our faces very close to one another, then told her, “If you have been trying to understand what ‘normal’ is, yet you can’t comprehend it… Then that’s okay!”

“What are you…?” She seemed to be confused by what I was saying and embarrassed to be this close to me, but this is not an issue right now.

“This is the correct answer! If you don’t know it, then stop thinking about it! Be free! Move as your heart desires!” I told her. She opened her eyes wide as I said that… I still cannot understand what she was worrying about, but whatever it is that made her keep murmuring about her mother, is something that she is clearly incapable of handling alone.

I then continued, “Just look at me! How is ‘normal’ the right answer?! Do I look ‘normal’ to you!?” I then let go of her hands and showed the entirety of my beautiful body to her, which seemed to help her slowly regain her composure, “You can see it, can’t you!? There are other people besides you that aren’t ‘normal’! It is okay to not fit the ‘normal’ standards!

“Or rather, don’t you think you’re pretty average when compared to me!?” I exclaimed while laughing out loud.

“You say that it is okay to not be ‘normal’, even though you’re a pervert…?” Rena asked me.

“That’s not important here! Because before being a pervert, I am a gentleman! And before being a gentleman…” As I said this, I ruffled her hair, as I noticed she was finally back to her usual self already, “I’m an adult!”

She seemed to be confused by that statement, but it is what it is. It was clear that she was still a pretty young girl, and no matter how much she may be referred to as the ‘terrifying Genocider’, there is still a limit to how much maturity she can have at her age. At times like this, she really should rely on the people that are more experienced than her.

“And that’s why, you should stop thinking too much and start walking through the gentleman’s path… Or rather, the lady’s path.” I told her.

“… I’ll politely decline.” She replied.

It was certainly a relief to see that Rena went back to her carefree self. A young girl like her really shouldn’t need to bear big burdens on her shoulders. I hope she can keep our exchange today in her heart.

“You don’t need to hold yourself back, you know?” I told her just in case she changed her mind on the lady’s path though.

“No, I’m good, really.” She said as she stabbed my heart with her shortsword. I dropped my guard a bit too much during our talk and ended up not even noticing her movement, “I stopped thinking and came to a conclusion.”

I giggled as she said that with an innocent smile. Truly a relief to see her like that, “Then, that is what it is.” I said as my vision started becoming white.

“… Thank you.” Were the last words I heard from her before I respawned at the temple… You’re welcome.

… And as I looked around at the respawn point, I could see a boy and a girl lying around, both looking pretty beaten up… Seems like the adult duty of the perverted gentleman isn’t over for today just yet.

Chapter 152 – Older

(Blossom's PoV)

After a while fighting, the both of us just flopped down on the ground as the aftereffects of our skills slowly evaporated, making it easy to see the surrounding areas were totally barren now.

"Why…?" I asked the girl that fought me until now.

"Why what?" She asked me back.

I put my arm over my eyes. It was hard to talk, it was hard to hold it back any longer… I hate crying like this, "Why did you have to get in our way…?" I asked her, "We weren't doing anything wrong…"

"Ah… I guess it can't be helped." The girl said. After that I started hearing her get up and move closer to me. I thought she'd maybe try attacking me now, but… It didn't feel like it was that.

I still wasn't looking, I still hid my face with my arm… Until suddenly, my head was raised and dropped into something soft… I looked now. She was giving me a lap pillow… She too had no intention to fight anymore.

Her hand gently moved through my hair as she said, "It's okay, you did your best."

It was embarrassing to be treated like that, but… Perhaps it was fine just this one time around, "I really was… I really was doing my best." I said. The girl just nodded in response. I knew she was listening, but she probably didn't want to interrupt.

… It was fine, just this once. Just this once, I'll let my feelings run free, "That woman… Right in front of me, she… To her family… To my friend… She was hitting my precious friend." The girl nodded, "She tried talking… She really tried, but… With that woman, it just… Nothing worked with her." The girl nodded again.

I took a deep breath before continuing, "They always helped me… I wanted to retribute… I wanted to help them too… I wanted to give something back for their kindness, but… but I was always so… Unable to. I thought that maybe… Maybe here… Maybe here, I'd be able to be their power…"

Because I have always been a shy and passive girl, I had no friends until Komari and Seigi got close to me. I could never do anything before they came to my aid. Even when something as simple as my appearance being ridiculed, I could never do anything against those annoying people, I always just dealt with it alone… At least, I dealt with it like that before Komari and Seigi became close to me.

It would be so nice if, at least in the game where I'm a top player, I could help out those two that saved me. I was really looking forward to being the one to guide them around after being guided by them for so long, but…

"But it didn't work… Everything that we thought of… It was all tried… It all failed…" I told the girl.

I read a lot, I knew a lot of things, for every small thing that I could, I always made sure to help Komari and Seigi with any knowledge I had… But this was all useless when faced with interpersonal relationships.

I suggested purposefully trying to hang out near her the places that their step sister went to, to see if they could get some 'chance meeting' opportunities to talk… But they were always ignored every time.

I suggested trying to slowly grow closer to her, talking even a small bit at whatever opportunity came… But their step sister always turned her face around and left, refusing to listen.

I suggested trying to use their father as a bridge, since it was also the step sister's father… But she hates her father.

I suggested trying to give her a gift… But their gifts were found destroyed, on the trash.

At that point I asked why couldn't they just give up on getting along, but… They had a 'promise', and 'they' also wanted to get along.

In those conditions, what other choice was there but to face her head on? There was just nothing else…

"I-I did well, right…?" I asked the girl in whose lap I was resting. I wasn't trying to hide my tears anymore.

While still caressing my head, she answered, "Yeah, you did. You did a good job… You were a bit too forceful though."

"But… There really was no other way…" I told her.

"Well… I guess Rena is a bit, just a bit, different from 'normal' people, so a 'normal' method wouldn't work.

"So, next time… Why don't you try relying a bit more on the older people around you? You're still a bit too young to try solving this kind of complicated problem by yourselves." The girl told me.

… Maybe she was right. Maybe we didn't have enough experience to deal with this kind of thing…

"Like, you could try relying on your seniors, for example… Like me." She said… How is she a senior though? She's shorter than me…

However, there should be some adults that we could try relying on… Not on their useless parents though, nor on the servants that don't have enough authority to intervene… And probably not on some self-proclaimed seniors either.

“That said, you’ll be trying again, right?” The girl asked me… I guess we will.

Though now that I calmed down, I was dying of embarrassment from laying on her lap.

“At the very least, you can rely on me and Yuu, okay?” The girl told me.

“… I guess so.” I answered. Though I wonder what kind of advice will this ‘experienced older person’ give me.

“Good girl, good girl.” She said while stroking my head. This was way too embarrassing… “Also, Yuu, what are you doing?” She said while suddenly turning her head to the side… Oh yeah, there was this guy here, wasn’t there?

“Eek!” He exclaimed… He really saw this whole exchange, didn’t he…? I’m dying.

“You weren’t thinking of something stupid like ‘beautiful girls engaging in yuri spotted!’ were you?” The girl asked him… What was that…?

“N-n-no! Definitely not!” His voice was trembling…

The girl giving me a lap pillow seemed to be pretty angry right now… Let’s not ask about the details.

Chapter 153 – Official Bulletin Board – twelve

[Belzenstock City] General Chat Thread 371 [Things Are Wild]

1. Nameless Adventurer

This is a general chat thread.

Let’s write freely.

However, if you don’t abide the basic rules, this thread will disappear.

Previous thread: http: // ******

>> 980 Next thread, please.

213. Nameless Adventurer

Someone stop the Perverted Gentleman!

214. Nameless Adventurer

Ah, the horror!

215. Nameless Adventurer

> 213

There’s no choice, we have to do it ourselves!

216. Nameless Adventurer

This is unbelievable…

217. Nameless Adventurer

I can’t go on anymore…

218. Nameless Adventurer

There’s just no way…

219. Nameless Adventurer

I was just hugged to death by the Perverted Gentleman… Literally.

220. Nameless Adventurer

Try your best, lol!

221. Nameless Adventurer

Each thing he does looks like something that came straight from the nine circles of hell…

222. Nameless Adventurer

Am I going crazy or is his body shining right now?

223. Nameless Adventurer

This is way too much violence for my eyes…

224. Nameless Adventurer

> 222

You should probably change your settings when trying to face that guy. You don’t want to see everything he has to show.

225. Nameless Adventurer

> 222

That must be his final form!

226. Nameless Adventurer

How can he really run around like that…?

227. Nameless Adventurer

> 224

> 225

Cowards!

228. Nameless Adventurer

He really doesn’t hold back on showing off, does he?

229. Nameless Adventurer

He’s killing me with looks alone…

230. Nameless Adventurer

Hey, I just logged in and am lost, what is happening in Belzenstock right now?

231. Nameless Adventurer

Boom!

232. Nameless Adventurer

> 230

A guy started an event at this thread: http://******

233. Nameless Adventurer

> 232

Thanks!

234. Nameless Adventurer

> 232

Pretty crazy to see how that turned into a raid against the top players! Lololol!

235. Nameless Adventurer

There’s a thin line between bravery and stupidity…

236. Nameless Adventurer

Well, not all the top players are in Belzenstock right now though.

237. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, there is a surprisingly high amount of top players at the city right now though, isn’t there?

238. Nameless Adventurer

At the very least, Genocider, Blossom, Maria and the Perverted Gentleman are there.

239. Nameless Adventurer

Yuu was treated as a bonus, lololol!

240. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

241. Nameless Adventurer

Found a hater! Lol!

242. Nameless Adventurer

Just what's happening!?

243. Nameless Adventurer

What happened here, Lol!

244. Nameless Adventurer

> 241

> 242

> 242

I guess some people are still salty about the time after the first official event where a bunch of people tried to get rid of Yuu and failed? Perhaps >240 was involved on the failed Yuu chase, lol!

245. Nameless Adventurer

Wait, what!? Lol!

246. Nameless Adventurer

I actually tried to learn some of his weird skills, but I couldn't use them at all! You need to be a special kind of person to make proper use of those things, lol!

247. Nameless Adventurer

> 244

Careful, maybe >240 will try biting you if you keep that up!

248. Nameless Adventurer

Just how did it come to this? Lol!

249. Nameless Adventurer

Must be just a kid that wanted to show off, lol!

250. Nameless Adventurer

It’s so cute to see your interactions.

251. Nameless Adventurer

> 244

Did you like any of the skills you tried out?

252. Nameless Adventurer

Was anything remotely usable?

253. Nameless Adventurer

I don’t think they can even count as skills outside of Yuu’s hands…

254. Nameless Adventurer

I didn’t expect that, lol!

255. Nameless Adventurer

I see… Guess we’ll have to find out what other crazy things he came up with on the next official event then.

256. Nameless Adventurer

When it starts, I’ll definitely hunt him down…

257. Nameless Adventurer

Oh, more haters!

258. Nameless Adventurer

> 257

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

259. Nameless Adventurer

Lol. That copy paste!

260. Nameless Adventurer

Lol, try to not flood things too much!

261. Nameless Adventurer

You’re all gonna get accused of bullying a middle schooler!

… Yuu’s a middle schooler, right? Just like Maria, right?

262. Nameless Adventurer

> 261

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

263. Nameless Adventurer

OMG! LOL!

264. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

265. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

266. Nameless Adventurer

Stop it! Lolololol!

267. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

268. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

269. Nameless Adventurer

I can’t believe this, lol!

270. Nameless Adventurer

Guess it’s gonna stay like that for a while now, lol.

******

[Within The City] General Chat Thread 373 [Trouble Is Brewing]

1. Nameless Adventurer

This is a general chat thread.

Let’s write freely.

However, if you don’t abide the basic rules, this thread will disappear.

Previous thread: http: // ******

>> 980 Next thread, please.

451. Nameless Adventurer

Somehow, it seems like more and more people are getting extra classes now.

452. Nameless Adventurer

> 448

Where the Perverted Gentleman passes, a river of people opens up… Reminds you of something?

453. Nameless Adventurer

> 451

Yeah, it’s not that hard now as it was at the start.

454. Nameless Adventurer

> 453

Wasn’t it a pretty big deal back when the fight against Alexei happened though?

455. Nameless Adventurer

Well, yeah, but it’s been a while since…

456. Nameless Adventurer

Also, the important NPCs are probably becoming stronger with time too, in order to not let the players easily steamroll them.

457. Nameless Adventurer

Not like that matters for the Genocider! Lololol!

458. Nameless Adventurer

Well, it can’t be helped when it’s her.

459. Nameless Adventurer

Yeah, Genocider and Absolutely Inviolable Area are in just another level.

460. Nameless Adventurer

I pity those that seriously trying going after her! Lol!

461. Nameless Adventurer

> 459

Raids aren’t fun if we don’t try going for the bosses!

462. Nameless Adventurer

Yeah, but some bosses were made to be unbeatable! xD

463. Nameless Adventurer

> 462

Don’t be like that, it’s important to have hope!

464. Nameless Adventurer

> 463

Yeah! Justice for the poor sacrificial lambs that wasted their lives away attempting the impossible!

465. Nameless Adventurer

That’s one way of saying it! Lol!

466. Nameless Adventurer

Can’t say I didn’t see that coming.

467. Nameless Adventurer

This game’s bosses are really cute, by the way.

468. Nameless Adventurer

> 467

I agree.

469. Nameless Adventurer

Definitely.

470. Nameless Adventurer

They are quite special the bosses…

471. Nameless Adventurer

That’s a given, isn’t it!? Lol!

472. Nameless Adventurer

I fell in love with her…

473. Nameless Adventurer

Genorer spotted…?

474. Nameless Adventurer

Oh, btw, seems like the Belzenstock war is over now. Lol!

475. Nameless Adventurer

Wait what!? How!?

476. Nameless Adventurer

He is lying, lol!

Chapter 154 – Official Bulletin Board – thirteen

[It’s Approaching An End] General Chat Thread 376 [Who Will Win?]

1. Nameless Adventurer

This is a general chat thread.

Let’s write freely.

However, if you don’t abide the basic rules, this thread will disappear.

Previous thread: http: // ******

>> 980 Next thread, please.

679. Nameless Adventurer

> 674

There’s nobody around the Perverted Gentleman anymore, lol!

680. Nameless Adventurer

> 674

Guess there is a limit to how much players can endure, lol!

681. Nameless Adventurer

> 674

You really were hiding in the back of a building that the Perverted Gentleman just happened to pass through! That's so unlucky, lol!

682. Nameless Adventurer

Oh my…

683. Nameless Adventurer

Ah…

684. Nameless Adventurer

That was a hit on the Genocider…?

685. Nameless Adventurer

Can we actually do this?

686. Nameless Adventurer

Has anyone that wasn't a top player ever hit her before?

687. Nameless Adventurer

You sure that arrow wasn't there already?

688. Nameless Adventurer

Can we maybe… Actually win?

689. Nameless Adventurer

Fight! I'm cheering you all on!

690. Nameless Adventurer

And I'm dead.

691. Nameless Adventurer

The cheer was useless! Lol!

692. Nameless Adventurer

Well, she rides that skateboard so fast! There's no way to anticipate her attacks! She's basically doing VR Parkour! Lol!

693. Nameless Adventurer

That's one way of looking at it! Lol!

694. Nameless Adventurer

Does anyone have a recording of the chase after Genocider? I wanna see all this again later.

695. Nameless Adventurer

The Assassin's Parkour, lol!

696. Nameless Adventurer

Seems fun, lol!

697. Nameless Adventurer

How does she even do that?

698. Nameless Adventurer

Well, it's a VR game, so if you have the tools to, you should be able to do basically anything.

699. Nameless Adventurer

Yeah, but what the Genocider does is always unbelievable! Lol!

700. Nameless Adventurer

Yeah, like… When you think she's on the skateboard's roads, she's actually on the roof; when you look at the roof, she's actually at the alleys; when you look at the alleys, she's actually killing someone that was hidden between buildings; and when you look between buildings, she's actually already behind you.

701. Nameless Adventurer

Lol, that description!

702. Nameless Adventurer

> 700

So, how many times did she kill you anyways?

703. Nameless Adventurer

Guess it's impossible to properly chase her, lol!

704. Nameless Adventurer

The Genocider ran away! Oh wait, she was behind me all along!

705. Nameless Adventurer

Huh?

706. Nameless Adventurer

The Hunter became the Prey, lol!

707. Nameless Adventurer

Just like in horror games, lol!

708. Nameless Adventurer

She's too scary, lol!

709. Nameless Adventurer

Small and scary. Lol!

710. Nameless Adventurer

I once saw her dodge an attack by entering freefall, only to then jump at a thread before continuing her move. It’s really amazing to see it.

711. Nameless Adventurer

Even though I know it’s fine to die in VR, I can’t help feeling scared when I see the Genocider nearby, lol!

712. Nameless Adventurer

Well, it really feels like she can see everything around her, so it can’t be helped.

713. Nameless Adventurer

Yeah, it’s like she has eyes on her back.

714. Nameless Adventurer

… Don’t make me imagine this cursed imagery.

715. Nameless Adventurer

She’s not human after all! Lol!

716. Nameless Adventurer

It’s the Genocider AI theory!

717. Nameless Adventurer

The what!? Lol!

718. Nameless Adventurer

There is such a thing?

719. Nameless Adventurer

Surprisingly, some people really believe it. You can see some details about it here: http://******

720. Nameless Adventurer

> 719

Eh? Lol!

721. Nameless Adventurer

AIs can’t play the game, lol!

722. Nameless Adventurer

She could always be the first! Lol!

723. Nameless Adventurer

Some people say that she’s an AI made by the devs actually.

724. Nameless Adventurer

Such crazy imagination…

725. Nameless Adventurer

We can’t really control what other people think in the end.

726. Nameless Adventurer

But well, the AI theory explains why she can kill without hesitating, doesn’t it?

727. Nameless Adventurer

Ehh?

728. Nameless Adventurer

Well, she is kinda emotionless so her being an AI could make sense? Though I don't think she'd be made by the devs of all things.

729. Nameless Adventurer

This theory is really a mess…

730. Nameless Adventurer

That's for sure, lol!

731. Nameless Adventurer

The thread got derailed again! Lol!

732. Nameless Adventurer

I guess it's too hard to keep those on topic! Lol!

733. Nameless Adventurer

Well, it's fun to theorycraft.

734. Nameless Adventurer

Some people are way too carefree.

******

[Enemy] General Chat Thread 382 [There Are Allies]

1. Nameless Adventurer

This is a general chat thread.

Let’s write freely.

However, if you don’t abide the basic rules, this thread will disappear.

Previous thread: http: // ******

>> 980 Next thread, please.

121. Nameless Adventurer

So Blossom too plays on parties sometimes?

122. Nameless Adventurer

I painfully found that out.

123. Nameless Adventurer

Well, even Genocider and Absolutely Inviolable Area play with parties sometimes.

124. Nameless Adventurer

I guess it makes sense.

125. Nameless Adventurer

Tsk, he is in the way!

126. Nameless Adventurer

What happened?

127. Nameless Adventurer

Things are getting heated again!

128. Nameless Adventurer

It’s Yuu! Again!?

129. Nameless Adventurer

I don’t get it! I don’t get his magic! And I don’t get why he can flirt with Maria!

130. Nameless Adventurer

The Taboo topic!

131. Nameless Adventurer

Haters are gathering, lol!

132. Nameless Adventurer

It’s hard to explain how hateful it is to die when you see that they are half-focused on the battle and half-focused on flirting…

133. Nameless Adventurer

He is a real annoyance…

134. Nameless Adventurer

And with how weird his magic is, it’s hard to even try making a plan of attack.

135. Nameless Adventurer

Yeah, we can never know what will come when dealing with ‘Yuu of the Variety Show’!

136. Nameless Adventurer

Yuu is truly in trouble, lol!

137. Nameless Adventurer

I bet he’ll be chased by lots of haters at the next official event, lol!

138. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

139. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

140. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

141. Nameless Adventurer

What’s that!? Lol!

142. Nameless Adventurer

What happened here!? Lol!

143. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

144. Nameless Adventurer

Stop the copy pastas! Lol!

145. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

146. Nameless Adventurer

For those confused, check the previous thread at: http://******

147. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

148. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

149. Nameless Adventurer

> 146

Thanks! Lol!

150. Nameless Adventurer

You’re such bullies! xD

151. Nameless Adventurer

There are too many haters, lol!

152. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

153. Nameless Adventurer

They don’t stop!

154. Nameless Adventurer

They’re surely dedicated to their craft.

155. Nameless Adventurer

Would be funny if this became a meme big enough to appear in official announcements.

156. Nameless Adventurer

Or in the TV even! Lol!

157. Nameless Adventurer

Meet mister Parasite! The companion of our Saint and the Genocider!

158. Nameless Adventurer

Yes, the incompetent parasite.

159. Nameless Adventurer

Would he be the underdog character that nobody would care for? Lol!

160. Nameless Adventurer

Now we just need a sponsor to make this come true. Lol!

161. Nameless Adventurer

You’re all crazy! Lololol!

162. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, he’s often seen with the Genocider or with Maria, so it’s a bit of a given that he’d be there too, right?

Damn that parasite!

163. Nameless Adventurer

And they don’t stop! Lol!

Chapter 155 – Official Bulletin Board – fourteen

[That’s It] General Chat Thread 386 [We Can’t Win]

1. Nameless Adventurer

This is a general chat thread.

Let’s write freely.

However, if you don’t abide the basic rules, this thread will disappear.

Previous thread: http: // ******

>> 980 Next thread, please.

341. Nameless Adventurer

> 338

Hello? Is this the police?

342. Nameless Adventurer

He openly admitted it! Lol!

343. Nameless Adventurer

Some people’s love for Maria is really crazy…

344. Nameless Adventurer

Come on, give him the benefit of doubt. Maybe he is just a middle schooler.

345. Nameless Adventurer

> 344

Isn’t she an elementary school student though!? Lol!

346. Nameless Adventurer

You’re priceless! Lol!

347. Nameless Adventurer

Wait what?! What’s happening here!?

348. Nameless Adventurer

> 347

Seems like the main source of hatred against Yuu, is the fact that he is often near Maria.

349. Nameless Adventurer

> 348

Eh…?

350. Nameless Adventurer

> 348

I laugh at this no matter how many times I hear it! xD

351. Nameless Adventurer

To think that the haters were all just pure people in love… Yes, police, it’s those people.

352. Nameless Adventurer

Maria sure is popular! Lol!

353. Nameless Adventurer

Isn’t she a big enough to be at least in middle school though?

354. Nameless Adventurer

I mean, if you want to talk about things seriously, she could have chosen whatever height she wanted when creating her character…

355. Nameless Adventurer

Come on, don’t you all know that elementary school students are the tallest of them all!? Maria is definitely in High School!

356. Nameless Adventurer

Heresy!

357. Nameless Adventurer

Where did this one come from!? Lol!

358. Nameless Adventurer

Love is in the air, everyone! Lol!

359. Nameless Adventurer

I don’t even know what’s happening anymore, lol!

360. Nameless Adventurer

Well, they could always give up on Maria and try going for Genocider instead, right?

361. Nameless Adventurer

That’s a death sentence…

362. Nameless Adventurer

I bet Genocider could kill you with the very flowers you’d give her as a gift…

363. Nameless Adventurer

Flower killing! Lolololol!

364. Nameless Adventurer

I’d pay to see that! Lol!

365. Nameless Adventurer

She’s beautiful though.

366. Nameless Adventurer

And a bit taller.

367. Nameless Adventurer

But Maria is friendlier.

368. Nameless Adventurer

And cuter.

369. Nameless Adventurer

And has amazing firepower.

370. Nameless Adventurer

Not to mention that motherly feel she gives at times…

371. Nameless Adventurer

She’s our saint.

372. Nameless Adventurer

Oh, the religious zealots are here!

373. Nameless Adventurer

The what…?

374. Nameless Adventurer

Her warmth wraps us all.

375. Nameless Adventurer

She forgives our sins with her gentle smile.

376. Nameless Adventurer

What the…?

377. Nameless Adventurer

Something strange is happening.

378. Nameless Adventurer

We’re all lambs that are cared for by our saint.

379. Nameless Adventurer

We’re what!? Lol!

380. Nameless Adventurer

Join the church of Our Saint Maria! Stalk her from the shadows each day!

381. Nameless Adventurer

Our homely religion will teach you the way of the lambs!

382. Nameless Adventurer

Join us and be reborn as Our Saint’s Lambs! Contact us at: http: // ******

383. Nameless Adventurer

The cult came in full-power!

384. Nameless Adventurer

Lol!

385. Nameless Adventurer

Lol!

386. Nameless Adventurer

Lol!

387. Nameless Adventurer

Should I also become her lamb!? Lol!

388. Nameless Adventurer

Maybe you gain power from being a lamb! Lol!

389. Nameless Adventurer

They’re all hopeless! Lol!

390. Nameless Adventurer

> 389

It can’t be helped, we’re all her lambs, right? Lol!

391. Nameless Adventurer

Shut up! Lol!

******

[Finally] General Chat Thread 391 [She Really Did It This Time]

1. Nameless Adventurer

This is a general chat thread.

Let’s write freely.

However, if you don’t abide the basic rules, this thread will disappear.

Previous thread: http: // ******

>> 980 Next thread, please.

451. Nameless Adventurer

The Genocider made it all go out of control!

452. Nameless Adventurer

To think she’d incite the inhabitants like that… World Quests sure have a lot of power.

453. Nameless Adventurer

The NPCs are all like ‘Let us fight together with the maiden!’

454. Nameless Adventurer

By the way, did the crown prince actually die?

455. Nameless Adventurer

No clue.

456. Nameless Adventurer

I also wonder if the second prince really killed him like she said.

457. Nameless Adventurer

Does anyone know?

458. Nameless Adventurer

> 457

I contacted the Verification Team and they also tried checking with some top players they knew, but… Right now, nobody knows.

459. Nameless Adventurer

Then how does the Genocider know…? Ah!

460. Nameless Adventurer

Ah!

461. Nameless Adventurer

No way…

462. Nameless Adventurer

This can’t be serious…

463. Nameless Adventurer

> 459

You said too much…

464. Nameless Adventurer

Could she have seriously killed the crown prince and then pushed the blame on the second prince!?

465. Nameless Adventurer

Psychopath spotted!

466. Nameless Adventurer

Too horrifying! Lol!

467. Nameless Adventurer

Poor second prince, lol!

468. Nameless Adventurer

She somehow keeps raising the scale of things each time! Lol!

469. Nameless Adventurer

She killed the king too, didn’t she?

470. Nameless Adventurer

So, that pretty much confirms the throne will now go to the second prince, right? Well, the country is doomed.

471. Nameless Adventurer

Not to mention how Belzenstock is one of the major cities of the kingdom, and they’re now convinced that the second prince hates them…

472. Nameless Adventurer

Oh my…

473. Nameless Adventurer

First the king dies, now the crown prince dies, presumably by the hands of the second prince… Poor sod.

474. Nameless Adventurer

She's surely merciless, isn't she? I wonder if she has some grudge against the second prince?

475. Nameless Adventurer

I doubt he'll even be able to rule the country properly because everyone will suspect him of killing the crown prince… Truly pitiful.

******

[End] General Chat Thread 394 [We Lost]

1. Nameless Adventurer

This is a general chat thread.

Let's write freely.

However, if you don't abide the basic rules, this thread will disappear.

Previous thread: http: // ******

>> 980 Next thread, please.

21. Nameless Adventurer

We lost.

22. Nameless Adventurer

The battle was so big, and then suddenly… Poof.

23. Nameless Adventurer

It really ended quickly.

24. Nameless Adventurer

It was nice to see the nice fireworks go up in the sky at the end though.

25. Nameless Adventurer

I wonder who threw those up. Probably someone related to the Genocider, since the NPCs quickly went to the Genocider's side after the fireworks started blowing up high in the skies.

26. Nameless Adventurer

By the way, the Verification Team said that those fireworks were called 'Krebskulm's Crest'.

27. Nameless Adventurer

Oh, like the marks on the NPC's cheeks?

28. Nameless Adventurer

They do have that, don't they!?

29. Nameless Adventurer

Then maybe it's something related to the World Quest?

30. Nameless Adventurer

Maybe.

31. Nameless Adventurer

I was ambushed by an NPC that came from underground… I was doing so well.

32. Nameless Adventurer

The underground passages were really hard to deal with.

33. Nameless Adventurer

It was so hard to search for them!

34. Nameless Adventurer

And in the end, while Gonzales Yamamoto desperately ran from the furious NPC mobs, almost all of our attackers were killed.

35. Nameless Adventurer

It happens I guess.

36. Nameless Adventurer

I definitely didn't imagine the Genocider controlling the NPCs of the city to fight against us.

37. Nameless Adventurer

Yeah, first a 'realistic' war against the Empire, and now guerrilla warfare against Belzenstock… Genocider truly causes the strangest events.

38. Nameless Adventurer

Games teaching children why war is bad! Lol!

39. Nameless Adventurer

> 38

Well, that's one positive way of looking at the Genocider's actions! Lol!

40. Nameless Adventurer

> 39

It’s important to remain positive!

41. Nameless Adventurer

If only positivity stopped us from being defeated by her! xD

42. Nameless Adventurer

At least we were able to hit her once this time around!

43. Nameless Adventurer

Yeah, we might have been able to do something if it wasn’t for the sudden NPC attack that had access to secret underground passages.

44. Nameless Adventurer

I don’t wanna fight in guerrilla warfare anymore, mommy!

45. Nameless Adventurer

Well, maybe if we have a proper plan, and fight outside of the enemy’s homebase, we might actually do it next time!

46. Nameless Adventurer

I wish we had thought of that before we started the unofficial event! Lol!

Chapter 156 – Ichijouji Naoshi's Daily Life

(Reina's Father's (Naoshi) PoV)

As I walked through the corridor, my secretary started reciting today's schedule to me. I already had the whole thing memorized, but there was no point in stopping her from confirming it.

I also had the bad luck of accidentally meeting up with that pest that was born out of Reiko during this morning's walk, but I ignored her… There are important business to attend to today, and no time to waste on her… She too walked past without saying anything. As unemotional as always, for anything that is unrelated to Reiko that is.

A small while later though, I met up with my children, "Are you two ready?" I asked them.

"Father!" My daughter shouted.

"Good morning, father." My son said.

"Oh… Good morning." I told them as I patted their heads. Seigi seemed to be a bit embarrassed by this, probably because he isn't a small child anymore, but it's fine. It's a habit I can continue with for as long as he doesn't explicitly tell me to stop.

"Father, I'd like to talk to you about something…" Komari said. She seemed to be pretty fine with the patting, it was nice to see that she still likes this kind of thing.

"What is it?" I asked her.

“A-about sister-” She started saying.

“Yamamoto, they have a piano recital today, right?” I asked my butler.

“Yes… They do.” Yamamoto replied.

They have a piano recital, so I need to finish work early and go there to see them. I need to be there for them to help them grow up normally… They’ll definitely be normal people.

“Then, let’s have breakfast. Take a seat, everyone.” I told the two of them as we reached the dining room. With my wife seating on my right, and my two children, son and daughter, sitting on my left… Like this, another day begins.

******

Once I got to work and dealt with my usual tasks, I had to attend a meeting to discuss how to handle the continuously growing number of refugees that we were harboring. The prime minister thought that it was a good humanitarian act to take care of them, but it was also being a considerable waste of tax money to harbor people that didn’t work, so some of the people in the committee were quite annoyed at them.

After a while of discussion, I ended up suggesting that a large refugee camp should be made in an area that had a high acceptance of refugees, which would serve as a way of minimizing expenses in the long run as they’d be concentrated in a single place.

However, there was an issue that we might not have enough space to harbor all refugees in one place, so I also suggested holding a popular vote with people deciding if refugees should be accepted into the houses of the populace that live in the more accepting regions.

Should the citizens be okay with it, we’ll be spending less money caring for the refugees as the citizens will be covering their needs directly. Should they be against it, we’ll start rejecting refugees due to lack of space and

money to spend on them, meaning that we'd be benefitting from this regardless of the result.

The ministers in charge of the areas at risk of receiving a large refugee count were obviously against it, but the prime minister decided to go with my idea, to their dismay. This was for the best, as actively refusing refugees due to being a waste of taxes would be bad on the eyes of the overall populace, but if it's done after they reject housing the refugees, the citizens will be a lot more accepting of the idea.

With this discussion out of the way, I took my leave early to make sure I wouldn't miss Komari's and Seigi's recital. One of the ministers reminded me to come back in time for the afternoon budget meetings, but I had not forgotten about it, so the reminder was unnecessary.

… On the way to the car though, I became painfully aware of the state of my leg. I should replace my prothesis for a new one… No, this was the prothesis that Reiko chose for me. I'll send it for repair again, and ask Yamamoto to get me a temporary substitute while this one is being repaired.

That can wait though, for now I should focus on their recital, and then I'll be able to see if they have improved enough to the point that their skills are fitting of the Ichijouji household.

Chapter 157 – Ichijouji Seigi's Contemplations

(Seigi's PoV)

I swung my wooden sword. Over and over again. It was a simple movement, just a single downwards swing, I kept on repeating that one basic movement as I thought of mine and Komari's encounter with our sister-in-law.

We really made contact with her this time… We had no plan, and found her out perchance even, but we fought her head on… It couldn't be helped, we really had no idea of when would be our next chance to talk to her, so we had to make use of this one… But it was truly a mess, wasn't it?

I can't let something like that happen again… I have to keep practicing, I have to pay more attention to her, I have to understand her, I have to get my feelings across to our sister-in-law… I'll do it with this swordsmanship!

And then, Komari won't have to go through another experience that is as harsh as this one… That girl is too reckless, too kind, too… Innocent. I really can't let her be harmed because she lets those wonderful qualities of her take her over… Though this time, it was also my fault that things didn't work out properly, wasn't it?

I don't get why Reiko asked us to grow closer to our sister-in-law. She sure knew that with the way our step sister is, she'd definitely reject us. Was Reiko just worried that our sister-in-law would have no friends otherwise?

… No. That doesn't matter. It was not just because of Reiko's request that we decided to grow closer to our step sister. There was something else, we

also wanted to grow closer out of our own will… But why? What was that thing that kept on pushing us? Why did we keep on going after being rejected again and again? There was definitely something stronger than the sense of duty towards Reiko…

… Loneliness. That was it, wasn't it? The face that our sister-in-law made when we first met, and on each subsequent time as well… She's lonely, isn't she? Even though she always has that expressionless facade, deep down she really seems to always be lonely… Even when near her friends, she still seemed lonely.

I suppose it doesn't help that she's always stuck in the villa ever since Reiko died… It also doesn't help that she also has a horrible relationship with father… Yeah, I'm sure of it, she is lonely, and I… Want to help her? Want to break through her loneliness?

… Or do I want to be her family? She… She might want that deep down. An 'ordinary family', one that she could enjoy being with just like how she enjoyed being with Reiko… I'm sure she really loved that 'ordinary' life.

Though what is 'ordinary' anyways? What is 'normal' and what is 'abnormal'? I don't get it. Is there even a difference in the first place? Is it just about how empathetic one is? Or does it have something to do with how one is born? I just… Don't understand it. No matter how much I think, I don't understand it.

I want to grow closer to our sister-in-law, I understand this much… But I'm still unsure on the why, and I definitely do not know the how… Is there even a way to get along with her?

I took a deep breath. After finishing the third set of one hundred sword swings, I figured it was time to take a break… At least this practice isn't in vain anymore, at least with these skills I can fight properly against our step sister in VR. I can deliver my feelings to her in the one place that we can actually meet up properly.

'Could you please try to get along? As siblings?' I remembered Reiko's words… They helped me push forward, they helped me focus on this goal

of defeating our sister-in-law's loneliness.

… Though is she even bothered by it? Could this just be a misunderstanding on my head? Can our efforts just be bothering her even more without really helping her in any way?

… I wish I knew her better. Perhaps I should ask Yamamoto about Reiko, maybe I can get something about our step sister like this.

… Ideally I'd ask father though, but he always gets so emotional when talking about Reiko or our sister-in-law, that I'm not sure I'd be able to get anything… It's so strange how affected he is by those two, the affection he gives me and Komari can hardly compare to the strength of the emotions he shows when the topic of Reiko and our sister-in-law are brought up… It's as if he was a robot with special settings that exist only for them.

… I wonder what happened between the three of them. I really wish I knew more… Well, there is no use worrying about it by myself. Let's go take a shower, and then get this day started.

Chapter 158 – Ichijouji Reina's Daily Life – eight

"Reina!" Mai shouted as soon as I left the mansion grounds. She and Yuuki seemed to be waiting for me in front of the mansion's gates… That was quite surprising, "Do you wanna walk to school together?" She asked.

"I don't mind it." I answered. Immediately after I said that, she quickly moved to my side and hugged my arm as we started walking.

After a small while of silence though, Mai said, "Uhn… Reina."

"What is it?" I asked her.

"Well… Is anything troubling you?" She asked back.

"Were you worrying about me?" I asked her while stroking her head. I wonder if I was behaving in a suspicious way these days? Or perhaps… She noticed something when we met up with the twins online? It's not impossible…

Mai made some strange noises instead of answering my question, so I figured I'd answer hers, "Well, right now things are…" Never mind that, she looks really strange right now, "Are you okay?" I ended up cutting my reply short to ask that.

"E-eh!?" She replied while making a very weird expression. She seemed to be kinda out of it, so I stopped stroking her head in order to look at her properly… She kept on staring at my hand that left her head just now, what's happening here? Is she too sleepy or something? "I-I-I-I-I'm okay! No problems here!" She then said.

“I see…?” Was my reply. It was a bit obvious that she was hiding something though, and she kept on staring at my hand… Maybe she didn’t like me caressing her head much?

Then, Yuuki suddenly started laughing, “What are you laughing at, Oda!?” Mai shouted at him.

“Well, it’s just…” He tried replying, but he couldn’t stop laughing, so he couldn’t make a coherent sentence.

“Stop laughing!” Mai screamed. Seems like their usual shenanigans are starting again. The day has barely started and we’re already going through this ‘ordinary’ event. It’s not a bad feeling.

“B-but your expression is so…” Yuuki tried to say something, but he still couldn’t stop laughing, so he was unable to finish it.

“It’s not that weird!” Mai shouted at him.

“Yeah, no, not, just… Well, try not showing it to other people much?” Yuuki managed to finish his sentence this time… And then he also used his hands to pull his cheeks and make a weird expression of his own.

“You little… I’ll show you!” Mai then started trying to grab his hands to make him stop with the strange expression, but he wasn’t letting her get too close, so she wasn’t able to get rid of his grimace… His height advantage must be really troubling Mai right now.

“I’m feeling sorry for you, so I’ll give you some milk on lunch break to compensate.” Yuu told her while holding back his laughter.

“Don’t you dare!” Maria exclaimed.

“Yeah yeah, I definitely won’t.” Yuu said while giggling.

Maria’s struggle made me remember my recent bout with the Perverted Gentleman. I’m not strong enough to win against him on raw strength, but Inoue’s help is usually more than enough to compensate for that. I wonder why I wasn’t able to overpower him at that time…

As I thought of that though, I suddenly heard a voice I knew say, ‘Ah…’ turning around towards it, I ended up seeing Hannes and his friends looking at me, Yuuki and Maria, “Good morning.” I told them.

Hannes seemed to be a bit frozen in place, but his friend, Kellin, started laughing… I wonder what caused that. Is it ‘normal’ for a friend to just start laughing out of nowhere like that?

“Come on, you wanna tell her something, right?” Eleanor said to Hannes, who after a small while, started walking towards me.

“Do you want to tell me something, Hannes?” I asked him.

“Don’t call me like that when we’re not in the game…” He replied.

“Oh, right… Then, Masaki?” I said. I’m more used to their game names, so it’s a bit hard to remember to use their actual names when we’re not playing… I should be more careful with this.

“Well, it’s fine. Come with me a bit, I gotta clear some debts with you.” He told me.

“… Is this some form of extortion?” I asked.

“I-it’s nothing like that!” He hastily replied. It seemed to be fine, so I following him to an alley. Masaki’s friends seemed to be anxious about something, while Yuuki and Mai still seemed to be doing their usual thing, “Well, uhn… You see…”

“What is it?” I asked him, who didn’t seem to be saying anything. He also kept avoiding my gaze and looking everywhere else instead, so he seemed a bit suspicious.

“I mean, uhn… You okay?” He asked me.

“Where did this come from?” I asked him back.

“I mean, you were attacked…” He then said.

“Oh, you mean the thing at Belzenstock? I’m fine… Were you worried about that?” I replied. It was a bit surprising to hear him say this kind of thing.

“D-d-don’t get cocky! I was just worried if someone other than me was able to kill you!” He hastily replied… So this was all my misunderstanding? For some reason it reminded me of the ‘tsundere’ characters that mom liked. It had something to do with how they kept making excuses for their actions. I didn’t quite understand what this ‘tsundere’ meant, but Masaki’s current behavior felt similar to it, “Don’t go thinking that I’m trying to get close to you or anything!” He then said.

“So… You don’t like being with me? Even though we already ‘played’ quite a bit together?” I asked him while tilting my head. For some reason he seemed to be frozen with his mouth open for a few seconds after I said that though.

“I-I hate you!” He replied after a small while.

“Such a shame, I like you after all.” I told him.

“H-h-hey! J-j-just wait for me! I’ll get you tomorrow on the event!” He replied. To think the event was tomorrow already, I must have missed the e-mail from the development team, “And don’t you try to run away!” He then said.

“Of course I won’t. Let’s ‘play’ again.” I told him, and after we promised to ‘play’ on tomorrow’s event, he went back to his friends… He is quite the fun person.

As I walked towards Yuuki and Mai though, I could overhear some of Masaki’s conversation, “Well, uhn…” Masaki said.

Kenji then started laughing, “You really can’t be honest, can you!?”

“Shut up…” Masaki replied.

“Well, at least she agreed to it.” Nozomi said.

“Yeah, congratulations, Masaki.” Sakura told him.

“You really don’t hold back, do you…?” Masaki said while dragging his feet away. I couldn’t overhear them anymore after this.

After reuniting with Yuuki and Mai, I was surprised that they were still at it, but I suppose that’s just like them.

Chapter 159 – Ichijouji Tadashi's Stomachache

(Tadashi's (new character) PoV)

"Ugh…" I grumbled as I rode the limousine towards the place that was going to be my new home… I hate this, I'm about to puke. Why am I a candidate for the succession of the Ichijouji family? Why couldn't they just go for Komari or Seigi who are people with a normal personality? Or even Reina who is… Well, like that… Why me when they exist!?

"Young master…" The butler said this as he stared at me through the car's mirror… It just can't be helped, okay? I'm sure he agrees with me that I shouldn't be going to that house!

"I just don't get why my father, who is from one of the branch families, agreed to the proposition of making me a heir to the main family…" I complained.

"Perhaps the master just had a similar line of thought as those of the main family." The butler told me. I mean, I get that much, but why!? I'm just an ordinary person with a bit of an unusual hobby, why me!? I wouldn't have tried being as excellent as possible if I knew this was going to happen. I caught the eye of the most disgusting person out there… "Also, please don't show them your unusual hobbies."

"I know, I know! Avoid showing them that I like gaming, I'll be mindful of that!" I replied. I wonder what would be the reaction on the Ichijouji household if they found out about it. Maybe they'll send me back to my parents' house and ruin my reputation on the process? Though I did build

up quite the image for myself already, so I think I should still be able to succeed our branch of the family even if that happens.

“We’ll be arriving soon, so you should probably review things again just to be sure. You ought to make sure you please Ichijouji Naoshi with every word you say.” The butler told me.

“We’re already getting there…? Alright…” I sighed, then started looking at the study material again. It was mostly obvious stuff, but it was a bit hard to be sure on what would be the ideal answers in case he asked me about my opinion on refugees and on AIs.

It’s humanitarian to harbor refugees, but it’s a huge financial loss as well… Perhaps it would be for the best to go for considering them unnecessary, since Ichijouji Naoshi is the minister of finance.

The AIs though… Ichijouji Naoshi is somewhat robotic, so perhaps he would be in favor of giving human rights to AIs…? Although… That would be so stupid. I can’t stop thinking of the problems that this would cause. I don’t care what his opinion on this is, I’m going to say it would be a nonsensical idea to give rights to AIs.

Also, I suppose he does care about Reiko, so he is not entirely robotic… And he could very well consider me incompetent if I say something as absurd as saying that AIs should have human rights, so I definitely should not say that.

Perhaps an ‘ordinary’ person would have agreed with this kind of proposition, but it’s better to not be ‘ordinary’ than to be ‘incompetent’… Besides, considering how ‘abnormal’ Reina is, I’m sure that I’d never be considered out of the ‘ordinary’ in Ichijouji Naoshi’s eyes.

That family is such a mess… A bad parent and a crazy child… “I wanna go home…” I grumbled while holding my stomach. Just the thought of living there was giving me a stomachache.

“Young master…” My butler said… I know, I know, it’s not an option for me right now… It’s just depressing to think of how stressful my life will be

once I arrive at their house… I guess I'll really have to vent as much of this stress away as I can while gaming, because I really won't be able to handle it otherwise.

Chapter 160 – The Old Leader

(Ron's PoV)

"Let's end it here for today, everyone." I told all members of the council.

"But we haven't finished discussing the government's attack on our city…" One of them replied.

"I'm aware, but it can't be helped. There is an important guest coming, so it will have to be left for later." I told them… A guest, yes. That girl who isn't even trying to hide her evil aura anymore… she's just announcing that she is coming.

The council members were confused by my words, but they decided to leave like I asked them to… And now that I was alone in this room, I said, "Well, what is it?" To our 'guest'.

"Oh, I was caught." She said as she entered through the room's window… We're on the third floor, but I suppose that doesn't matter for her.

"It's not like you were trying to hide yourself… So? Can you tell me why you decided to instigate the citizens to fight against the kingdom's government?" I asked her. I understood that there was probably some truth behind the words she said on the day of the migrants' attack. The crown prince being dead and the second prince being the most likely candidate for the throne are probably true, but… I doubt that the part about the second prince hiring migrants to attack us was true.

"So you were worried about that?" She asked me.

"… I'd like to know what is it that you are trying to make the followers of Krebskulm do." I answered. I wish Ronove was still here to help us out in

those troubling times. If he hadn't antagonized her from the start, he could have been able to minimize the damage she might cause us in the long run… But that stupid hot-headed son of mine had already succeeded me in becoming the high priest of Krebskulm, so there was nothing I could do to stop him.

And now, the intensity of the Chaos within this girl is unbelievable. At this moment, she is far more terrifying than I ever thought she could become.

"You don't need to be so wary, I'm just acting freely, doing what my heart tells me to." She answered. It was a motivation that was so in-line with Krebskulm's teachings… Why did this girl have to be so compatible with the sea, yet so far into Chaos?

I wish I knew of a way to save her from this abyss that she has fallen, but the sea itself considers her an enemy already… And yet, she was the one who helped us attain freedom, and was also quite the sweet person when interacting with some of our citizens… No matter how much I think of her, I cannot understand how this girl's mind works.

"But well, what I wish to do, is to establish a new country." She told me.

"I see…" I replied. It made sense. Our people weren't fond of the kingdom's government already due to the time of slavery… If you add that to the recent attack and put all the blame on the prince, you'll create a large resentment on the populace, to the point they might be willing to fight against the whole kingdom for the sake of their freedom. I am unsure if even I would be able to convince them otherwise.

"So? What's your answer? I've already obtained the cooperation of Margrave Wallace, so if you also agree, we can make sure that the kingdom won't ever be able to rob the sea of its freedom again." She told me.

So she already has Margrave Wallace by her side? I wonder how she did that… Perhaps he was a youngling like Ronove who was not capable of keeping a clear head in times of need, and ended up getting lured into Chaos.

… As a priest of Krebskulm, I cannot agree to stay by her side, but… Before being a priest, I am the leader of the people of Belzenstock City. I need to do what is best for my citizens, and allying with her might be what keeps us the safest, even if only temporarily.

“Will the believers be kept safe?” I asked her. I should try to keep as many people alive as possible after all… For that, I need her to give me a guarantee.

“Mmm… I’m not sure what you’re asking, but it’s fine if you take a while to think about it. I’ll give you three days.” What does she mean about being unsure? And also…

“Three days?” I asked her.

“Yes. There will be a migrant gathering tomorrow, and I’ll be attending. You can use this meantime to think of your answer.” She replied.

A gathering… She said those same words on the last time we had met. Migrants seem to really enjoy festivals don’t they? Though this probably came at a good time as I’ll have more time to think this through.

“Well then, I guess I’ll be off.” She said.

“Won’t you at least meet up with the sisters before you go?” I asked her.

“Sisters…?” She asked back, “Who were those, again?” She doesn’t even remember? Nia cried so much when she heard that this girl left without even saying goodbye… Were they truly nothing more than tools for this girl? “Oh, right! The slave sisters. I remember them now.”

Slaves… Such an insulting word. She said it so easily, so naturally… So this is how she remembers those two sisters… I see. This is how it is in the end.

“This is good enough.” I told her, “I won’t be needing the three days after all, let us fight together… Let’s be comrades on the fight for the foundation of a new country.” I said.

Each word that I said pained my heart, but there was no choice, there was no room for hesitation… There was no way this woman could obtain salvation.

“You should go to your gathering, and I’ll be preparing things over here for the upcoming foundation of a new country.” I told her.

“Oh? Alright, thank you for your cooperation.” She replied.

“But of course, for this is what is best for all believers of Krebskulm.” I told her. We’ll do what we must do. Even if it means bowing down and licking her shoes, I will protect my people… I cannot let her destroy us, even if it means going completely against the faith I have followed for all of my life.

“Well, then. I’m off.” She turned around and started moving towards the window that she used to enter.

“Be safe out there.” I told her… This monstruous woman… I’ll offer her what I need to in order to protect my people, even if it means offering my very life…

At this point I wonder… Can she be truly be called an enemy of the sea any longer? When we once again chose to fight by her side…? I do not know, nor do I know if I won’t regret my actions in the future… But I will pray for the safety of all the citizens of Belzenstock, and do my utmost to preserve them.

Chapter 161 – Announcement – two

(KSO Programmer's PoV)

"Come on, you can do it, Ron…" I said while looking at the screen, as Rena and Ron talked to one another.

"It's happening, it's happening…" Boss was really excited as he looked at the screen together with me.

"Boss, can't you control yourself a bit? It's a bit depressing to look at your childish enthusiasm." I told him.

Ignoring my complaints though, Boss jumped out of his chain in pure joy, "It happened! It happened!"

"For real…?" I grumbled as I just lost our bet on whether or not Ron would accept her proposal…

"Then, we'll go with my plan! This event is gonna be great!" The boss exclaimed.

I sighed, dreaded what was coming, and said, "I suppose it can't be helped."

"Yeah yeah, hurry up and release the announcement for it! Let's see what the players' reactions will be already!" The boss ordered.

"Alright…" I replied, "Don't blame me when your secretary comes and punishes you for irresponsible behavior on work though."

“As if that’s gonna happen!” The boss said, as the secretary stood right behind him… Later on, he was forced to skip lunch and sit quietly on one of the cafeteria’s chairs with a sign hanging from his neck that said, ‘I played around and abused my position to make important game decisions’… He really didn’t blame me for this one at least, he knew it was his fault to leave the fate of the event up to a bet anyways.

******

(Rena’s PoV)

Oh? The details of the event are finally live? Let’s see…

——

From: KSO management

Subject: Official Event Announcement

We are pleased to announce our second official event, the ‘Kidnap Race’, please read below for the event rules.

1) Each participating player should choose a country to align themselves with. While the Kingdom of Hermagne and the Bourfoin Empire are the two largest countries currently available, players are free to align themselves to smaller countries if they so desire.

2) Once you have chosen your country, a player that chose the same country as you will randomly be assigned as your partner. The system does not take Karma into account and will make an absolutely random selection, so be aware that you might not necessarily match well with your partner.

3) After your partner has been selected, your UI will show what are all countries that are antagonizing your current country, and you’ll receive a goal of kidnapping important people of the enemy countries.

4) Both partners will earn points by killing or kidnapping important people, though kidnapping gives three times more points.

5) Moreover, if a player earns enough points during the event, they may also become a kidnapping target to other players.

6) The event ends when half of the participating countries are destroyed. Feel free to ally with the important people of your country to try making a strategy.

7) Also, while the player pairings are decided randomly without taking karma into account, the event can still affect your Karma, so behave like an appropriate member of your faction. Your actions within the event will have the same impact on your standing as if you were doing a ‘World Quest’.

8) Once the event ends, the players will be allowed to exchange the points they earned for prizes.

And below, you can see the top players of each faction:

Order:

#1 Perverted Gentleman – Karma: 308

#2 Maria – Karma: 301

#3 Cherry – Karma: 294

#4 Shark – Karma: 281

#5 Tapiocaman – Karma: 279

Chaos:

#1 Rena – Karma: -411

#2 Blossom – Karma: -301

#3 Hymn’s Guru – Karma: -289

#4 IKZO – Karma: -284

#5 Namerou – Karma: -277

Neutral:

#1 Absolutely Inviolable Area – Karma: 0

#2 Myra – Karma: 3

#3 Lily – Karma: 4

#4 Matcha – Karma: -8

#5 Pandora Love – Karma: 10

We hope you all enjoy the event.

-KSO management team.

———

Seems like I was barely on time to found the new country, I'm glad. We don't have much force aside from the Margrave's forces and the Moonlight Family, but this should be enough.

I'm looking forward to the event tomorrow… Though for now, let's go talk to Eren.

Chapter 162 – The start of the second event

(Eren's PoV)

It was a mostly peaceful day. I was drinking coffee at my desk with nothing particularly troublesome happening. There was some noise outside, but after getting up and looking through the windows, I found out that it was mostly caused by children playing around.

My subordinates were also training properly at the courtyard, and I could see them slowly improving each day.

It was truly looking like a bright peaceful day. I thought as much at first… Until I turned around that is, because I then saw that hellspawn of a woman sitting on my chair.

"Hey Eren, how are you today?" She said.

"Bloody hell!" I shouted as I threw my coffee cup on the ground. The person in charge of cleaning seemed to be annoyed, but I couldn't be bothered with that right now… She just had to come and ruin everything… Can't she at least not steal my chair!?

"I have some news for you." She told me.

"And what trouble will you bring me this time around!?" I replied. We still haven't finished repairing all the damage that she caused, merchants have a hard time trading with us, our security is looking horrible, and we don't even have a priest at the temple because she killed the last one! What will come now!?

“My my, what are you so angry about?” She asked me.

“Why don’t you just look into your heart and find out!?” I exclaimed… No, calm down, Eren. It’s this woman that I’m dealing with, I can be offed if I get her too angry… Let’s take a deep breath, get a new coffee cup, and relax… “No, never mind that… What did you want to tell me? I assume it’s related to our last talk?”

“We’re now an independent country, and I declared war on all the neighboring nations.” She said.

“Bloody hell!” I threw the cup at the ground, breaking it again… Seriously, what the hell!? “You can’t be serious…”

“No no, I absolutely am.” She said.

“I know that much! I’m just wondering why!” I replied. And why is she looking confused right now? Did she really think I believed for a second that she wasn’t serious about that last statement!?

“Oh well. I’ve made a deal with Belzenstock, so we actually have free access to the sea.” She told me, ignoring my question, “Also, you’re king now.”

“Bloody hell!” And another cup was broken. My subordinates weren’t even angry at me anymore, they were just pitying me. Seriously… Me!? King!?

“How about Wallace Kingdom as our name? We’re no longer just a small frontier city anymore after all.” She then said.

“Wait! No! Stop! I don’t want to be king! I hate that idea!” I tried to stop her. Maybe a miracle would occur and she would give up on this crazy plan.

“Is that so? Well, there is a good chance we’ll start swallowing the nearby countries pretty soon, so we could be the Wallace Empire then. Would Emperor be fine?” She replied…

“Bloody hell!” One more cup was broken… We might run out of coffee at this rhythm.

“Is everything okay with Eren?” The person that was cleaning the floor said.

“Well… The boss is just tired.” One of my subordinates replied… Yeah, I’m very tired alright.

And just as I thought things couldn’t get any worse, that woman said, “Oh, there’s another topic I still need to tell you about, by the way.” She’s not done yet!?

I took a deep breath and said, “Alright… Just… Please explain to me in detail what’s going on, then.”

“You see, there’s an event… A festival. The migrants are going to hold a festival of sorts.” She said.

“Alright…” I replied. It didn’t seem to be that bad so far…

“And in this festival, we’ll be kidnapping the important people of other countries and bringing them to ours.” She explained.

… That’s a festival? This is their definition of a festival!? I could feel my hair falling out of my head from stress…

“So you’ll be kidnapping people and bringing them here…?” I asked her in disbelief.

“Pretty much.” She replied.

The kidnapping could end up leading to us earning funds alright, but… What about the security? How are we going to fend off attackers that might try rescuing them…? This whole plan is crazy. I can’t even muster the strength to get angry anymore…

I really miss the time I just worked on the Moonlight Family. Things really were a lot simpler back then…

“Also…” Please no more… “You’re also one of the targets for kidnapping.” She told me, “There might be quite a few migrants coming after you, so try

keeping yourself safe, okay?”

… No matter how much trouble I might have caused during my time in the Moonlight Family, I definitely did not accumulate enough bad karma to deserve this. This is no divine retribution, this is just me being unlucky with a hellspawn that keeps coming to my doorstep.

I couldn’t even muster a reply… All I could do was watch as she said, “Oh, seems like the festival is about to start.” and then she hurriedly left my room.

… I wonder if I should worry about growing bald early from stress.

Chapter 163 – The start of the second event – part two

Just as I reached the plaza of the Beginners' City, a screen appeared on the skies above, projecting the image of the head developer that had announced the last event, "Hey everyone, it's me! You remember me, right?!" The developer said.

"Boss, please take this seriously…" Someone that wasn't visible on the screen said.

"Alright, alright! Been a while since the last event, right? Some players even made an unofficial event of their own while waiting for this!" The 'boss' said.

"Please explain the event to them already…" Someone behind the screen also said. Seems like their boss is as carefree as usual.

"Anyways, your menu should now have a button related to the event in it. Please click it." The 'boss' told us. I clicked the button as he instructed and saw a menu to choose the country I'll fight for. I chose the 'Emergent Wallace Kingdom', of course… It was nice to see it there, as well as the 'Lord: Eren Wallace' part, which showed who was the leader of the country.

After a small while passed, everyone seemed to have chosen their country, so the head developer said, "I want you all to remember that your Karma won't affect who will be your partner in this event, so be ready for anything! Now let's get this event started!"

And then, the screen went white.

******

<Your partner will be decided in 20s>

In the white space, this system message appeared, together with a menu that told me some extra information about the event. It seems that as soon as the partners are decided, everyone will be teleported to the capital of the country they chose to fight for.

And the number of players that chose the Wallace Kingdom is… Pretty small. It's only in the double digits, but that much is fine.

<Your partner will be decided in 5s>

I wonder who my partner will be. It's a bit of a shame that I can't see who chose to fight for my kingdom, but I guess I'll just have to find it out once the event properly starts.

<Your partner will be decided in 2s>

Besides, I'll probably have fun no matter who my partner is. Worst comes to worst I just have to tie them up somewhere in case they try getting in my way.

And then, my partner was teleported to my side.

"You!?" Hannes exclaimed.

"To think my partner would be Hannes." I replied while giggling. I'm happy with it, but it's a shame that partners cannot kill each other in this event.

"Unbelievable…" Hannes sighed.

"I wonder if the system truly ignores karma for the partner choice. Perhaps the higher rank players were purposefully put together with someone on the other faction, in order to make it harder for them to behave as members of their own factions." I commented.

“Considering the personality of the head developer, I wouldn’t doubt it… It could also be some sort of balance decision to give the lower ranked players a better fighting chance, since we’ll be getting in each other’s way.” Hannes replied.

“Well, please take care of me from now on.” I told him.

“It can’t be helped…” He said while sighing. It’s a bit sad that he really seems to dislike being my partner in this event…

“Mmmmm… Handshake! Give me a handshake!” I suddenly told him.

“Ah… Alright, I guess? Please take care of me too.” He said as he shook my hand. This feels a bit better, but… Well, regardless of how he feels about this, I’m gonna enjoy this event together with Hannes! “I’m not gonna let you do whatever you want though, so be prepared.”

I giggled, “Then please try stopping me with all your might!”

“Don’t mind if I do!” He replied.

<Returning to the game’s field>

Seems like everyone was finally paired up, so we were teleported back to the capital… And now, I’ll have some time to ‘play’ with this somewhat violent person as my partner.

Chapter 164 – The second event – Collapsing Kingdom

“We’re going then. Look forward to some souvenirs.” I told Eren.

“… Take care out there.” He said while giving us a somewhat weak laugh, seems like he is still a bit unwell.

Either way, me and Hannes left the Beginners’ City and looked at the event’s menu which showed what were the people that we could kidnap to gain points.

“Wait a minute… Why are we able to kidnap people from all the surrounding countries?” Hannes asked me after staring at the event’s menu for a small while.

“Oh, I declared war against all the nearby countries.” I told him.

He opened his mouth wide, but said nothing for some reason. I was going to keep on walking by myself, but a system notification appeared saying that I’d get a penalty if I stayed far from my partner for more than 30s… So I guess we need to keep going together? Alright then.

“Come on, let’s hurry. Eren will surely be targeted by a lot of players, so we have to get the head start!” I told Hannes.

“Isn’t that your fault!?” He replied.

“Why did you shout that…?” I asked him.

I didn’t get why he seemed to be angry, Eren would have been targeted by the end of the event anyways, so it’s quicker to go after all the nearby

countries from the get-go and remove potential threats. It is kinda risky, but also more fun.

“Uhn… Never mind that.” Hannes said, then sighed, “Do you have a plan at least?”

“But of course. Jun, do it.” I threw Jun forward, and then it immediately transformed itself into a motorcycle.

“What the…?” Hannes seemed to be surprised by Jun’s transformation.

“Well, please get on the back.” I said as I hopped on top of Jun.

“This is…” He didn’t finish his sentence for some reason.

“Jun.” I guess he wanted to know its name?

“Not that, I mean…” He stayed still and kept looking at Jun, seemingly dumbfounded. I guess he was surprised by seeing a motorcycle in-game?

“Come on, we gotta hurry and start kidnapping people.” I told him.

He sighed again, “I suppose.”

“Just why are you so tired?” I asked him, since he didn’t seem to stop sighing.

“Your fault.” He answered. I didn’t quite get it, but he got reluctantly sat behind me.

“Then hold on tight so that you don’t fall.” I told Hannes as I was about to start moving, but he didn’t really comply, “Hannes…?” I asked him, then looked back to see that he had a troubled expression, “Is something the matter?”

“I mean, uhn… Won’t I get a sexual harassment warning if I try hugging you!?” He asked.

That's what he is worrying about? Hits towards the chest are normal during battle, but he suddenly starts thinking about this kind of thing now?

"… You were planning on doing something naughty or something?" I asked him.

"What!? No, you stupid!" He instantly answered.

"I was just joking." I told him.

"That's not something to joke about!" He exclaimed. I tried to ease him a bit with the joke, but it didn't seem to work… Rather, he seemed to be even more troubled now.

Well, let's solve it like this then. I turned forward again, then I used my threads to tie him up to me.

"Whoa!?" He exclaimed.

"There, I touched you first, so it shouldn't trigger anything now, right?" I asked him.

"I guess… Just don't do this kind of thing with other guys, alright?" He said.

"What do you mean?" I asked him while still looking forward. I was curious about what was his expression as he said that, but I couldn't turn around due to how close we were… I wonder what he meant though.

"D-don't mind that too much." He said.

"Alright, then… Let's go!" I exclaimed as I started Jun's motor.

"Can I request you to drive safely…?" His voice suddenly seemed to be quite worried.

"Don't worry, it's a game after all, so you can't die." I replied.

After a small silent pause, Hannes started saying, "H-hey, wait a minute, I-"

I didn't let him finish though. I used Kageyama's <Shadow Manipulation> and <Materialization> to make a path made of shadows that would be easier to travel than the ground. <Floating> to further remove friction, then <Jet Propulsion> and <Tailwind> to increase acceleration and… Go!

"Wait, wait, wait! Slow down!" Hannes exclaimed, but I ignored it… Which then prompted him to start shouting really loudly, but that was alright.

We moved from the Beginners' City to some abandoned village and kept on moving forward. I think we can first go to the nearest smaller countries, as they should be easier to get rid of. And the less neighbors we have, the less people will aim at Eren… Yeah, let's go with that.

It also helps that a good chunk of our neighbors are countries that recently proclaimed independence from the Empire, so they aren't that well-organized yet, which should make them even easier targets.

… Hannes was still shouting, "Please be quiet, Hannes." I told him, though not only he didn't stop shouting, but he was actually hugging me quite tightly… It's honestly a bit surprising that he got no sexual harassment warning yet.

"Is it that uncomfortable to move like this?" I asked him. I do fly around on my own quite often, but I was never moved around by someone else… Perhaps the sensation is different? That might be it… "Oh well, I suppose this is a bit of a cute side of you." I told him as he kept on shouting, "We'll be arriving soon, by the way."

It's quite interesting to see the usual violent Hannes being so affected by my driving, but we won't be able to cooperate properly if I am excessive with my mischiefs, so I suppose I should be a bit careful with what I do… Still, this event looks like it will be quite fun.

Chapter 165 – The second event – Collapsing Kingdom – part two

“W-wait! Stop! Someone help me!” The ex-baron that I was tying up exclaimed.

“You’re the only one left, so there is no one to help you.” I told him.

“You done over there?” Hannes said as he entered the room while carrying the other three important NPCs of this kingdom. I truly wonder why they declared independence when they had such weak forces, but it’s none of my business, “Let’s keep moving them. I want to finish getting rid of the small fries and hurry up to the kingdom.” Kingdom? I think he meant Hermagne there? Though I have to wonder…

“Why are you in a hurry?” I asked him. He seemed to be feeling pretty bad once we arrived, but as soon as he recovered from his motion sickness, he immediately went on the offensive. It was quite the change alright.

“Hmph! None of your business!” He replied.

“I see…?” I said. I’m a bit curious about this, but if he doesn’t want to tell me, then let’s give up on it, “Alright, then let’s finish moving those people to the Wallace Kingdom so that we can go to the next country.”

“Does that mean we’ll use…?” Hannes left his question incomplete, but I knew he was talking about Jun.

“But of course! We can ‘play’ more like this, right?” I replied.

“Yeah…” Hannes seemed to already be tired. Did he skip lunch or something? I wonder if it’s alright to keep on ‘playing’ like this… Well,

let’s keep going for as long as we can!

******

(Yuu’s PoV)

Me and Maria were silently tying up the people that we finished capturing from a nearby country. We didn’t have any convenient means of carrying them back to the country we were fighting for, so we had to transport them manually.

As Maria finished tying up the hands and feet of the NPC she captured, she tied them to her back so that she could carry them. I also did the same to the one I captured.

We didn’t really look at each other as we did that, but at some point she roughly pulled the rope from my hands, “That was a bit too rough, wasn’t it?” I asked her.

“… This is good enough for Oda.” She replied.

“It’s just us here, so you don’t need to force yourself to use my last name, you know?” I asked her.

“Oda’s last name is enough!” She exclaimed.

The last name is enough for me, but she can be all kind and compassionate to others… She’s being so violent. We were supposed to be good otaku friends, who ridicule each other as a joke, but… Just last name…? This is enough…?

I sighed, then said, “Well, if miss Hagiwara is okay with last names, then I suppose I won’t mind it.”

“O… Oda is an idiot!” She exclaimed.

I felt like crap right now. I started thinking back on how this stupid fight started, it seemed to be so trivial… How did it get to this?

The system had just finished assigning the pairings, and I happened to see that Mai was my pairing, and ended up saying, “Wait, you, Mai? Seriously?”

She then replied with, “What do you mean with ‘seriously’?” She wasn’t angry at that point, she was just a bit surprised by my reaction, I think.

But then I had to say that, “Well, I just think it would be more fun to work together with other people from time to time?”

“What!?” I should have realized she didn’t take it well at this point, but I continued…

“I mean, we’re pretty much always paired together for some reason. Don’t you think that it would be nice if those random systems gave us different partners every once in a while?” I told her. It was true that we had some sort of mysterious luck that got us together almost every time that a random system was deciding pairings. And also… I did think that Maria could end up having more fun if she was paired up with someone else.

“What do you mean!?” She asked.

“It’s just… Don’t you get tired of always being together with the same person?” I asked her back. I really didn’t realize how much I messed up there.

She paused for a second, she seemed to be in disbelief at first, but then she shouted, “Stupid Yuu!”

It wasn’t something that she hadn’t done before, but this time it felt different. It didn’t feel like banter, it felt like she was really angry at me.

I didn’t quite get her reaction, and I didn’t like how she started shouting at me, so I replied by saying, “Why are you suddenly yelling at me!?”

“Isn’t it alright!? You’re so tired of being with the same person each time, so at the very least I have the right to reply in whatever way I want!” She exclaimed.

I didn't understand why she was so worked up, but I didn't feel like staying silent once she said that, so I started arguing back, "Huh? You say that, but you're the one who always avoid me at school because you're scared of being seen together with the otakus!"

"Yeah, because I don't wanna be seen with the people that say stuff like 'I just love seeing girls in swimsuits' in public!" She replied.

"Stop making things up! I never said anything like that!" I answered.

"But the things you say give off this same disgusting feeling to the people on the surroundings!" She exclaimed.

Things really went downhill from that point on. Neither of us wanted to step back, and we just kept on dragging things further down…

"But you're also an otaku!" I told her.

"But I'm a sensible one!" She replied.

"And how am I not sensible!?" I asked her.

"Because you hide magical girl doujinshis behind your shelves!" She told me.

"J-just how do you know those things?!" I asked her.

"And you also get all prideful and full of yourself each time miss Ichijouji talks to you! How is that sensible!?" She then told me.

I really did get angry at this last one. I just couldn't help getting happy when a popular girl talked to a nobody like me, okay? Mai should know enough about my own self-view to understand this much.

And yet, instead of trying to calm things down, I just made it all worse, "Yeah? Because unlike Mai, miss Ichijouji is a beautiful and charming girl that everyone can't help paying attention to!" I told her.

"I'm also charming!" She replied.

“If someone thinks you’re charming, Mai, then that person is a criminal.” I really shouldn’t have said this one.

“Y-y-you’re so stupid, Yuu!” She said as she kicked me between the legs…

“Agh… T-that was a bit too much…” I told her.

“Ah… I-it’s Yuu’s fault! You’re too stupid!” She said.

I was the one attacked, and it was my fault… I just couldn’t get where she was coming from… And now we can’t even look at each other, nor refer to each other by name… It started from something so trivial, yet neither of us are trying to make amends now.

“What a wonderful event…” Mai grumbled out loud as she carried the NPC on her back.

“Well, if you aren’t enjoying it, then wouldn’t you have been happier if you had been paired up with someone else?” I told her, bringing back what started our fight.

“Oh, but of course it comes back to this! Oda, you really can’t endure playing with a tiny kid like me, do you!?” She said.

“… Weren’t you the one who said it was such a bother to deal with an otaku like me!?” I ended up replying.

We were still quarreling. I didn’t even know if I meant what I said anymore, but I just couldn’t bring myself to reply normally when we were like that… This really felt horrible.

After another small while of silence, Mai ended up saying, “Just try not getting in my way… Oda.”

“That’s my line… Miss Hagiwara.” I replied.

We went silent once more… Eventually we both said, “Stupid” at the same time though.

We were really close to one another, yet we weren't talking. We weren't even looking at each other… She always has such gentle smile when talking to others, but she's always annoyed or complaining when talking to me… I really felt like playing with others could have been more fun… I really felt that it could have been more fun for her at least.

I didn't really know how to make up with her, we just kept on silently walking, ignoring the NPCs that we were carrying, who were clearly uncomfortable with the situation… Not nearly as uncomfortable as I was though.

Chapter 166 – The Second Event – Collapsing Kingdom – part three

(Hymn's Guru's (new character) PoV)

"Oh, Lady Maria, where are you Saint Maria!?" I exclaimed while I kneeled on the ground, put my left hand on my chest, and extended my right hand towards the heavens, "I wish to once again see your beautiful body! To see your wonderful hair being moved by the wind! Oh, please, wonderful goddess who has a smile as bright as the sun, let me protect your lovely petite body!"

As I professed my faith to Our Lady Maria, I could see that the nearby NPCs were staring at me with troubled expressions, but that was irrelevant. They just don't understand her glory… and therefore it is even more important that I continue spreading word of our faith in Our Lady.

"Oh saintess who has a motherly smile that comes out of a little girl's body, please grace us with your unbounded kindness that is only befitting of Our Lady! Let us gaze at your gentle lovely plains as you bless us with your holiness! The miracle that is your existence shall forever be remembered deep within our hearts!" As I continued professing my love for her, I figured it was about time to change the topic to our greatest enemy.

"However, there is a darkness that constantly tries to taint Our Lady's sacred light! The treasonous devil who ruins her perfect smile, yet keeps standing by her side no matter when and where! This disgusting being that must be purged, let his name be known, and his soul receive the divine punishment, for you will not escape unscathed this time… Yuu!" I exclaimed, holding my fist up high.

“Please wait, Saintess Maria, we will rescue you from this foul fiend, we swear… Hear our pledges, and believe in our faith in you!

“Hymn’s Pledge number one! We will accept all of your love!

“Hymn’s Pledge number two! We will not deny your words!

“Hymn’s Pledge number three! We will forever praise not the mountains, but the beautiful plains!

“Hymn’s Pledge number four! We’ll put our utmost into fulfilling your dreams, in order to let you fully spread your love to all who deserve it!” As I continued chanting the hymns to spread the love for our Saintess Maria, I could see that some NPCs were calling the guards, but the guards understand. They all had a very troubled look on their faces, it was clear that they understood that this was an important ritual that should not be interrupted. No matter how many NPCs call me a weirdo, no matter how many of the NPC children cry to their mothers, I will not let the faith of our lady Maria be unheard of! I’ll spread it to every corner of this world!

Even if some of those NPCs say that their children shouldn’t look, or that they shouldn’t let themselves be contaminated by madness, they simply don’t understand… But I do. I understand their incapability of truly appreciating the beauty of Our Lady Maria, and therefore, I will not stop, I cannot stop-!

Chapter 167 – The Second Event – Collapsing Kingdom – Part four

I threw a poison needle at the eye of a guard that was blocking my path, blocked a dagger that was flying towards me with my threads, then threw it towards an enemy that was approaching me from the side.

“Don’t let her through! Protect Count Marley!” The leader of the guards said.

“I’m a king now!” The count said.

“… Protect the king!” The commander shouted, corrected himself. It couldn’t be helped that they weren’t used to the new title of someone that was crowned so recently, but I don’t think they should be wasting their time in humorous banter in the current situation, “S-stand still! Don’t run!” The commander shouted as I used my shortsword to kill two more guards. Immediately after that, I threw iron scraps at the heads of the people that were trying to run away, then used a nearby corpse as a meatshield to block an archer’s arrow.

I wonder why they think that turning around and running is a good idea, it just makes them easier targets.

“Please help me!” One of the important NPCs I had already kidnapped in this kingdom was being a bit too loud…

“Be quiet.” So I put the arm of a dead man on his mouth, stopping him from saying anything else. It was nice that a dagger user tried approaching me from behind just as I was getting tired of this NPC, his arm was being quite useful right now.

The guard commander tried attacking me from the sides with his longword, but I parried his attack with my shortsword, “Monster…” He said.

“I’m really tired of hearing that…” So I used the <Pierce> skill to punch through this guard’s throat. Then I put an explosive within his mouth and threw him towards a group of guards.

“You barbarian! Don’t you even know how to properly duel!?” The king of this country said.

“Since when is there a proper way to fight…?” I didn’t quite understand his point. I made a proper declaration of war before invading, that’s about as much of a ‘gentlemen’s agreement’ kind of action that I could take, yet he asks for even more? I wonder if Yuu knows anything about those weird standards… Or perhaps Eren does, he is a king now after all.

Oh well, it doesn’t really matter. I used another guard as a meatshield for arrows, put an explosive in his mouth, threw him against the archers, kicked a spearman that was trying to attack me from behind…

“Huh? You’re still alive?” I dodged an arrow that came from the place I had just thrown an explosive towards. I was sure that those archers were dead, but apparently there was a strong enough NPC there that tanked the explosion for them.

I threw a dagger that was lying on the ground towards this tank in order to finish him off, but my projectile was parried by an axe strike, “You sure were fast, Hannes.” I said as he stood in my way.

“You don’t need to kill them…” Hannes said. He was carrying the king on his back, which was nice since it means we wrapped up early, but it was a bit annoying that he didn’t let me get rid of those guards, “Our goal here is just to kidnap them, remember?”

“Yeah, but… We’re also supposed to act like people in our factions, right?” I answered. It couldn’t be helped that I was doing some killing as a member of the Chaos faction after all… Though I suppose it’s also fitting for an Order member to stop me.

“Well, that’s true, so…” Hannes then gave me a mischievous smile, “No murders from now on.”

“What the…?” Was my reply. Isn’t this a totally one-sided restriction?

“Come on, listen to the end… I’m only banning murdering.” Hannes explained.

“Oh… I see.” So he is fine with me doing other chaotic things for as long as I don’t kill anyone?

“Don’t tell me that you can’t do this much.” Hannes said.

“I can restrain myself to avoid killing.” I replied.

“Promise?” He asked me while showing me his pinky finger.

“Promise.” I entwined my pinky with his.

——

(Hannes’ PoV)

Rena was grinning as she promised me to not murder anyone else. I understood that she was probably thinking that she could still go pretty wild even without killing anyone, but that much was fine.

“We promised, so make sure to stay true to this.” I told her.

“Don’t worry, it’s a promise after all.” She replied.

I know that I can’t stop her entirely, but this should at least limit how much trouble she can cause… It’s a start.

——

(Rena’s PoV)

So Hannes wants to get in the way of my opportunity to ‘play’ by using a promise? It’s kinda like ‘playing’ with a handicap then… This seems fun.

“It was a pinky promise, you can’t break it.” Hannes told me.

“Pinky promise.” I nodded.

More importantly though, I’m looking forward to ‘playing’ with Hannes and enjoying this pairing that the event decided for us.

———

(Hannes’ PoV)

I really have no idea how much chaos Rena would cause if she had nothing holding her back, so it’s a relief that she accepted this deal so easily… Sure, she could just be pretending to accept it, but I think she’s probably viewing this as an opportunity to have fun in a different way than normal, so… I guess this was a mutually beneficial proposal in the end. I limit how much trouble she causes, and she gets to have more fun than she usually has… It’s good enough, probably.

Rena giggled just as I thought that, “This will be fun.” She said.

———

(Rena’s PoV)

“Oh, will it now?” Hannes asked me, though he was also smiling.

And of course it will be, for we are ‘playing’ together!

Chapter 168 – The Second Event – Collapsing Kingdom – part five

(Hannes' PoV)

"Wait, damn you!" I exclaimed as Rena laughed while running away from me. She had a thread tied to the ankle of one of the important NPCs of this kingdom and was using said NPC as a weapon against his own guards… And she is so fast! I can't win on a speed competition! "<Earth Movement>!"

"Oh! Not bad!" She said as the walls and ceiling started changing shape, getting in the way of her movement. The ground was also moved to hasten my own movement, but it was still hard to catch up.

"Hey! Only the king and his aides can pass through here!" A guard said… Did he seriously expect this would stop Rena?

"Don't be unreasonable now!" She said as she jumped above said guard.

"Ah, wait… You can't pass though!" Giving up on stopping her, he turned towards me… I ended up hitting the back of his head and knocking him unconscious. It would have been best if he just made way, but I couldn't waste time arguing with him, so I had to knock him out and keep on chasing Rena, who was escaping through a window by using her threads. I had to grab those same threads to go after her.

As I continued chasing her, she said, "Oh, Hannes? You were hitting a guard!? Is it okay to be this violent!?"

“That was a necessity for the sake of not letting you get away! And I don’t wanna be called violent by you of all people!” I replied.

“You’re so rude…” Don’t go fake crying on me! You’re still smiling even! How bad can your acting be?! “Oh well, I wonder if you can actually catch up though.” She said while giggling.

She started gaining distance again, so I had to start throwing hatchets in her way to slow her down. Though I had to be careful to not hit the person she was actually kidnapping, which made it hard to aim.

I also had to keep jumping at her threads and at walls in order to keep on following her crazy movement pattern, which certainly didn’t help…

“You’re quite dexterous, aren’t you, Hannes?” She asked me.

“What’s up with this all of a sudden!?” I asked her back.

“It was just a compliment, you know?” She said while giggling… Not fair! Don’t go looking cute like this out of nowhere! I’m serious about obstructing you!

“<Earth Movement> <Cascading Sandstorm> <Nature’s Retribution>!” I used those skills to make the floor collapse, make a huge amount of sand to block her sight, and to change the position of her threads, making her lose balance.

“You’re smart!” She exclaimed as she threw some poison needles at me.

“And you keep bypassing everything I throw at you!” I replied while parrying the needle.

She also tried binding me with some threads, but I spun my axe around to cut those. She also threw wind and fire magic towards me, but I stopped it by creating earth walls on the path of her spells.

“<Meteor> <Shadow Clone>” She’s not holding back at all! She threw explosives and poison needles duplicated by shadows all against me at once!

“<Nature’s Retribution>!” I used this to send her projectiles back towards her though. It didn’t work against the shadow clone projectiles, but it was easier to handle just the clones alone.

“So your skills can even do this much?” She seemed to be a bit surprised.

“And you just keep on trying to kill me!” I replied.

“It can’t be helped, you threw back all my gifts.” She feigned crying again… Why does she have to be this cute!?

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(Ranka’s PoV (New Character))

“Stop!” A guard said as he pursued Hymn… Meanwhile, Hymn kept on running, professing his pledges while blocking any attack that came his way.

“I will not stop until all have been enlightened by the Saintess’ grace!” Hymn exclaimed, before going back to reciting his pledges… When will those end anyways!?

The guards tried to make a blockade to stop him when he entered a narrow corridor, but he was able to just force his way through effortlessly.

“Just what is this guy!?” One of the guards that was blown away exclaimed.

“I am the one that will bring the true knowledge to all you ignorant humans!” He exclaimed, and then he started making a pose, as if he was about to start making his praises to the Saintess again, the ones that weren’t involved with the pledges… Okay, I’m tired of waiting for him. Let’s end this right now!

“Enough!” I exclaimed as I hit his head with the blunt part of my Naginata, “Ishimori, the event already started! This is no time to be proclaiming the Saintess’ faith in the middle of the Beginners’ City!” I scolded him.

“Sorry…” He didn’t seem to be sorry at all though… Good grief, he really forgets that we’re in a game when it comes to the Saintess…

“Anyways, how many pledges are there? They just didn’t seem to end!” I asked him.

“There are a total of 108 pledges-” He replied.

“Way too many!” I exclaimed as I hit his head with my naginata again, then sighed.

There were some onlookers that were murmuring stuff like ‘are they friends?’ and ‘are they in the middle of a fight?’ which was a bit depressing. They seemed to be putting me on the same level as him…

“Hey, using violence and getting angry are not things allowed by the Saintess, you’ll be punished if you keep going like that…” Hymn told me… Stupid!

“The benevolent Saintess does not punish! Only karmic retribution may come to those that go against the teachings!” I replied.

It seems like in the middle of his obsessive devotion, he ended up forgetting the basics, so I started scolding him to force him to remember.

Chapter 169 – The Second Event – Collapsing Kingdom – part six

(Hannes' PoV)

"… Just what are you two doing?" Eren asked us as we barged into his room while still attacking one another as we brought another important NPC to him, "No, you know what? Never mind that. Since you two came back, I guess I can introduce you to the other migrants who chose to help out this country." He said while sighing.

"Oh? How many are here right now?" Rena asked him. We also stopped fighting at this point, since we had already reached his room anyways, so there was no point in continuing.

"Three pairs of people, counting you two." Eren answered.

… There weren't many. Though I suppose there wasn't much of a reason to choose this country in particular.

"Come on, let's greet them!" A girl exclaimed while dragging a guy near us.

"Do I really need to…?" The guy answered.

"Hurry up!" She exclaimed.

"That girl is Ranka." Eren said while pointing to the one doing the dragging.

"But before that, I need to cleanse myself of all worldly desires!" The guy that was being dragged exclaimed.

“Shut up!” The girl shouted, then started chanting some Buddhist prayers… Is this her method of coping with that guy?

“And that thing being dragged is Hymn’s Guru.” Eren told us.

Then, after hearing his name, he suddenly got up and greeted Rena, “A pleasure to meet you, Genocider! You fit well into the Hymn’s path, for as our seventh doctrine decrees, we shall hate the fat and love the flat!”

“Shut up!” Ranka hit his head before she got back to chanting Buddhist prayers… What is this guy?

“And that over there, is Tapiocaman.” Eren pointed towards someone that looked normal.

“A pleasure to meet you, I’m the player with the username ‘Tapiocaman’.” He said.

“… A pleasure to meet you.” I shook his hand. For a change, it really does seem to be a reasonable person this time around.

“And she is… Won’t she come out?” Eren asked Tapiocaman.

“Ah, she’s too shy, so let me introduce her.” Tapiocaman replied.

“You do you then.” Eren said with a sigh, “I’ll go back to dealing with this endless pile of work.”

“Come on, you can come out.” Tapiocaman said. After a small wait, a very small girl came out from behind him. She had silver hair, blue eyes, dark skin, and wolf-like ears, so she probably spent quite some time customizing her character… Quite different from me, who barely made myself any different from my normal appearance.

Once she was out, Tapiocaman introduced her properly, “She’s Lily. Her avatar is female, but she’s actually an adult man. I’m her close friend and we often get reincarnated into different worlds due to god’s whims. While she usually plays the role of someone troubled by the gender change, I play the role of the supporting best friend.”

“She’s… A man?” I asked a bit in disbelief… They seem to have quite the established roleplay lore there…

“Yeah, pretty much. The setting also involves us having to live together and comedic scenes involving her being defenseless in the morning and being seen in embarrassing situations due to her lack of self-awareness as a girl.” Tapiocaman continued.

“What…?” Was all I could muster as a reply. I thought those two were the reasonable pair, but I guess there are no sane people in this group… Even Rena seems to be flabbergasted by this whole thing.

… Well, Ranka does seem to be a bit reasonable I guess, but she seems to be escaping reality by chanting Buddhist sutras even louder than before.

I sighed, “Let’s… Do our best for the country, I guess?” Then told this to everyone.

“Work hard, everyone.” Rena commented.

To think that Rena seems to be the most reasonable person in this group… Just how did this even happen?

I wish I could contact my party members just to vent, but the event blocks the call function in order to make the competition fair for everyone…

I’m starting to pity Eren, who has to deal with those people each time they come back… As if Rena herself wasn’t enough trouble for him.

Chapter 170 – The Second Event – Collapsing Kingdom – part seven

Translator's Note: Lily, in her internal monologues, refers to Rena by her actual name (Reina), not by her username (Rena). Those aren't typos.

(Lily's PoV)

The Hymn guy that was often being hit by Ranka started staring at my breasts… "I'll give you 75 points! You made them too big for your character's age though!" He suddenly said this.

"They're not that big!" I exclaimed. Ranka hit Hymn's head immediately after that.

Taking my eyes off that pervert, I stared at Reina for a bit… To think that I chose the same country as her, what are the chances…?

No, it's fine, she won't recognize me, I'm just a pretty girl right now…

Let's not think about it. Instead, I hid behind Tapiocaman in order to avoid the gaze of that perverted Hymn guy, then said, "Hi-Hide!"

"Oh? What is it, Lily?" He asked me.

"Not Lily, it's Nao!" I exclaimed while forcing some tears to come out.

"Eh…? Are those your real names?" Hannes asked us.

"Ah, no, nothing like that. Hide is the name of a character I played back when we were in Middle School. Nao was the name of Lily's character from before the gender bending, so part of our lore involves having our

characters refer to each other by the previous names that they were used to.” Tapiocaman explained.

“I see…” Hannes said.

… That’s Reina’s partner, isn’t it? I’d like it if we could become normal acquaintances, though it might be hard when they both seem to be top players… I’m just here for the roleplay, so I don’t think our playstyles will match well.

“Who are you talking to…?” I asked Tapiocaman with upturned eyes.

“Eh? Just to our teammates.” He replied.

“Huh!? Agh, fine!” I exclaimed while making sure that Lily’s jealousy was clearly visible on her pouting face. To think that he’d be giving other people this much attention just because he is a popular and social person… There was a pain in Lily’s chest right now, so Lily moved herself closer to him while still tugging his clothes.

“In any case, seems like we’ll be having some sort of strategy meeting. You’re coming, right Lily?” Tapiocaman asked me.

“Well, if you insist, I guess I can allow you to follow me…” Though Lily said it like this, Lily’s tail was actually waving around happily from being invited by Tapiocaman to participate.

“… Okay.” Hannes said that.

“Then, let’s go to a better place to talk? There aren’t many of us, but it’s a bit cramped here.” Tapiocaman suggested.

Reina didn’t seem to be particularly interested on a strategy meeting. She probably just wants to attack whatever nearby country is available… Dealing with abnormal people is too troublesome, we just don’t match.

Regardless of that, we ended up going to a cafe and sat down on an empty table.

“Then, how will we proceed from now on?” Tapiocaman asked everybody.

“I have to save lady Maria!” The perverted guy exclaimed.

“… Maria doesn’t want to be saved by you.” Ranka rebuked him.

“That can’t be! Of course she needs me!” The Hymn guy exclaimed.

I wonder who is that Maria. Let’s search it up real quick… Huh? ‘Our Saint’? This girl…. She seems promising. I wonder if she’d be interested in yuri RP with a genderbent girl? I now want to meet up with her.

“Aren’t there rumors that Maria hates Hymn’s Guru…?” Hannes asked.

“Disgusting…” I muttered.

“Eh? What happened, Lily?” Tapiocaman asked me.

“You’re disgustingly pathetic! If you’re a real man, then show the courage to kidnap the woman you love!” I exclaimed while looking at the eyes of Hymn’s Guru.

I’ve decided it. I’ll use this guy to make contact with Maria!

“Y-y-yes!” He replied.

“Why are you stuttering!? Aren’t you from the Chaos faction!? You should be boldly moving forward to clear your objectives without holding back!” I told him.

“Yes, Lily! Thank you! I’ve achievement enlightenment thanks to your words!” He exclaimed.

It really was too easy to manipulate this pervert… Now this event is starting to look fun. I wonder what else will I be able to do in this event…

“I’ll kidnap Maria for our kingdom, as she’ll most likely become an eventual target anyways!” Hymn’s Guru said.

Meanwhile, Ranka temporarily stopped reciting her Buddhist sutras to say, “Oh, great Buddha, please forgive me for participating in the evil deeds of kidnapping a young girl…”

Lily doesn’t like this religious girl much, she’s too deppressive…

“You fine with that, Rena?” Tapiocaman asked her.

“It’s fine. Do what you want.” She replied.

Reina seems to be completely disinterested in it while Ranka is just looking scarier with each passing second… Lily doesn’t like getting scared after inciting someone…

“Oh, Maria, where art thou, Maria!?” Hymn’s Guru exclaimed.

“Then, I guess we can for now focus on kidnapping both important NPCs as well as players who may attack this country?” Tapiocaman asked, trying to conclude the meeting.

It was still a big goal when considering we’re only six people, but I guess it might work out somehow? Should Lily then stay home waiting while her precious person goes out in this dangerous mission?

“Since nobody seems to be against it, then-” As Tapiocaman started saying this, Hannes slammed his hand on the table.

“Naive!” Hannes exclaimed. Lily was so surprised that she hugged Tapiocaman’s arm when this happened, “You’re being way too carefree!”

“Is something the matter, Hannes…?” Reina asked. I wonder what is he trying to get at. Did he just get overly stressed and ended up getting angry? If so, that would be kinda disappointing.

“The kingdom! What we should be doing, is attacking the Kingdom of Hermagne!” Hannes exclaimed.

That’s a bit too much of a big goal, isn’t it? Lily started holding back her giggle at this point.

“Wait a minute, Hermagne is too big and has way too many players…” Tapiocaman replied.

“Exactly! The largest number of enemies are in the kingdom of Hermagne and in the Bourfoin Empire, as a certain woman declared war on all the surrounding countries…” As Hannes said this, he glared at Reina, “Therefore, we must defeat Hermagne first, as that will take out the biggest threat in our immediate surroundings!” Hannes concluded.

… Reina really did way too many troublesome things… Why is she so abnormal!? And she isn’t even self-aware to boot!

“It’s a big bet though… And I’m not sure the pervert there will cooperate much.” Tapiocaman said while staring at Hymn’s Guru.

In response to Tapiocaman’s comment, Hannes simply said, “Ranka, I’ll be counting on you to keep him in line.

“You can handle Lily, right?” He then asked that to Tapiocaman.

Hey! I’m not nearly as troublesome as that pervert! I just have a roleplaying hobby that society tends to frown upon!

… Besides, I’m fine with everyone attacking Hermagne anyways.

“In any case, we’re all gamers here, so…” He then stood up and everyone focused on him. Even Reina, who didn’t seem to care much until now, actually looked to be interested in the conversation, “We’ll show everyone how it’s done! Let’s go giant killing!

“Wait wh-what!? What are you doing!?” Hannes then exclaimed this as Reina grabbed his hand.

She started giggling, “You really are aiming big, aren’t you?”

This lady is way too dangerous and way too lacking in self-awareness…